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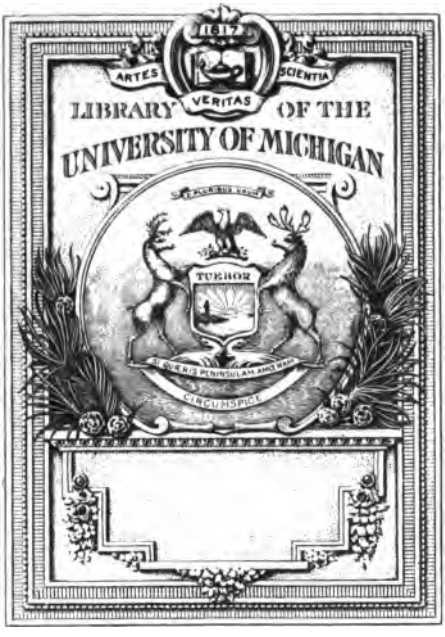

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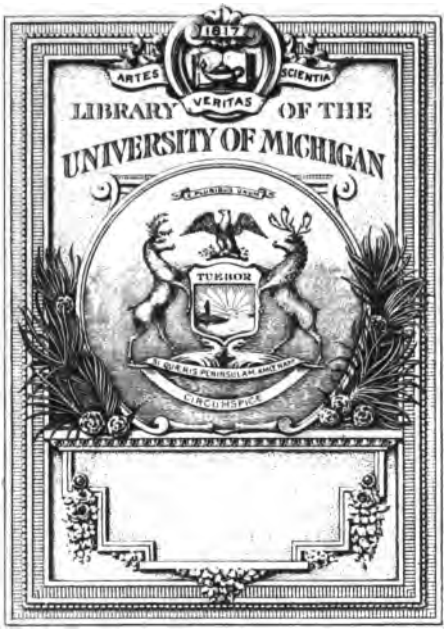

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NARRATIVE

OF A

FORCED JOURNEY

THROUGH

Spain and France,

AS A

PRISONER OF WAR,

IN

THE YEARS 1810 TO 1814.

By MAJOR-GENERAL LORD BLAYNEY.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

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CHAPTER XXX.

Perigueux.... Execution of four gentlemen.... Benedictine convent.... Du Guesclin.... Digression .... Angoulême.

1811.

I FOUND Perigueux extremely crowded, and inquiring the cause of my landlady, she informed me that four gentlemen of the *ci-devant* first and richest families in the country had just been tried and condemned to suffer death, for robbing a carriage conveying specie to Spain. After seeing the horses taken care of, I walked into the town to pick up more information; and going into a tobacconist's shop, to purchase some segars, I entered into conversation with the owner respecting these unhappy

men. He informed me they had emigrated to England in the revolution, and had returned after the peace of Amiens, in hopes of recovering a part of their property, and finishing their days in peace in their native country; but found that the whole of their property had been confiscated and sold in such a manner, as to render it impossible for them to recover the smallest portion. Their names were Calvimont, Pourcheri, Brion, and la Roque; a fifth who had been concerned in the robbery, had saved himself by flight. On their trial they did not attempt to deny the fact; but Calvimont, in the name of the whole, addressing the tribunal, said: "as "descended from the noblest families in "the province, we scorn even to save our "lives by a falsehood. We formerly pos- "sessed large fortunes, of which we have "been unjustly deprived; and thus, being

"without

"without any means of support, our ne-
"cessities obliged us to commit the act for
"which we are about to be judged. We
"solicit not mercy, we know we have
"none to expect; nor would we accept
"of life, if offered us—for what is life
"without the means of existence? That
"death, intended as a punishment, we
"therefore welcome as a relief from mi-
"sery; and we are prepared to meet it,
"not only with resignation but with joy."

This short speech, my informer added, was delivered with such modest firmness, that, added to the great age of the speaker, it made the deepest impression on the court; they were however condemned, and as justice is very summary in France, the next day was appointed for their execution.

February 29. A desire to see the too celebrated machine, by which the noblest and purest blood of France had been shed,

induced me to be present at this awful catastrophe; and I begged the tobacconist to secure me a place from whence I could view it. The guillotine was erected on a large platform, in a little place opposite the Hôtel de Ville. The executioner wore a grey frieze waistcoat and pantaloons, a white nightcap covered his head, and his shirt sleeves were tucked up, like those of a butcher going to slaughter an animal. The victims were attended by two priests, and after a short time spent in prayer they were brought towards the fatal instrument. La Roque, who suffered first, went through the terrible preparation without shewing the smallest emotion; and his head being severed from his body, the executioner held it up, streaming with blood, and said something which I could not distinctly hear, but which I suppose designated the crime. The guillotine did not perform its office

office so well with the second victim, for the head remained attached by the skin, and the executioner separated it, with a long knife prepared for the purpose. The two others saw their comrades suffer without their countenances betraying any signs of fear; and, I doubt not, only envied them the privilege of going before them.

For my own part, I was heartily sorry that my curiosity had led me to witness this sight: I could not for a long time get rid of the recollection, and in the night guillotines and headless trunks flitted before my eyes. Nor were these sensations weakened by the stories my friend the tobacconist and others related to me, of the horrors they had seen perpetrated in this same spot during the revolution, when more than once the daughter had been sprinkled with the blood of the mother, and the father forced to witness the execution, or even to become

the executioner of his son, or the son that of his father. It was by such scenes that the revolutionary monsters accustomed the people to sights of blood, and prepared the mind for the perpetration of those horrid acts, at the bare recital of which humanity shudders, and man almost despises his own nature!

Perigueux is a very ancient town, with little but its antiquity to recommend it; the streets being, like those of all old places, narrow and irregular, and the greatest number of the houses mean. Some fragments of the wall that anciently surrounded it, and of the fortifications erected before the invention of cannon, still remain. On the outside of the town is a very handsome walk, planted with trees, and kept in good order. Perigueux was formerly the chief town of the Perigord, and is now of the department of the Dordogne. It is thirty-two leagues distant from Bourdeaux,

deaux, and one hundred and sixteen from Paris; its population is five thousand seven hundred; and it has criminal tribunals, of the first class, and of commerce. Its chief trade consists of *pâtés* of partridges and truffles, which it exports to all parts of France; but it does not seem to be much enriched by this traffic, though the number of *traiteurs'* shops equal all the others taken together; the general appearance, indeed, is mean, and denotes poverty. It has, however, the advantage of being situated in a cheap country, for which reason several English families of small fortunes, who liked to live well, chose it for their residence before the revolution.

As this town is celebrated for its truffles, I would not quit it without enabling myself to judge how far it merited its celebrity, and accordingly ordered a turkey stuffed with these vegetables, which certainly is one of the

choicest dishes in the *catalogue des gourmands;* but I regretted that I had no one to partake of it with me, and of a bottle of excellent old Madeira, which my landlady found remaining of a stock she had laid in when the English frequented her house. In order to keep off the blue devils, I was obliged to invite the tobacconist in the evening, to partake of a bottle of la Fite, and, as he was a good-humoured fellow, I got over the time pretty well.

The floods having rendered the line of road I was pursuing almost impracticable, and also learning that the inns were wretched, I determined to cross the country to Angoulême, and get into the great Paris road. I had not proceeded far, through a wild and hilly country, when I was caught in a violent shower, and found that the preceding rains had swelled every stream into a river, so that I was in considerable danger in crossing them; and

should

should actually at one time have been swept away at a mill stream, had it not been for the miller's assistance. On entering Beautoin, I wandered in the street for some time, looking for an auberge; at length a decent looking man addressed me, and invited me to enter his house, the sign of Notre Dame, which, he assured me, though small, afforded excellent accommodation. The first part of his statement I found to be true, but with respect to the second he exaggerated a little, for I could only get half a salt goose for my dinner; but a good fire, and two bottles of Madeira which I brought from Perigueux, made up for other wants: and as my landlord seemed to be a companionable old fellow, fond of news and society, I invited him to drink some of his own wine, of which, though little better than vinegar, he finished two bottles, praising it to the skies. He informed me that the ruins of a cele-

a celebrated Benedictine convent, in the neighbourhood, were worth seeing; and the following morning I accompanied him to them. The external wall and the roof only remained, the inside having been entirely destroyed in the revolution. Its situation on the banks of the Adela is most romantic; and close to it is a stupendous rock, with a cavern, on the sides of which Charles the Fifth of France, the founder of the convent, caused to be cut various statues and representations of the battles of the age. In general the figures had been mutilated by the revolutionary Goths, nor had they even spared those of Du Guesclin and the Chevalier Breton, the most successful and renowned warriors of that period. Under that of Du Guesclin was an inscription, so much defaced as to be now illegible, but which a priest, who had collected the whole of them, informed

me

me was the celebrated speech of that warrior to his army before the battle of Cocherel: "*Pour Dieu, mes amis, souvenez-vous que nous avons un nouveau Roi de France, que sa couronne soit aujourd'hui étrennée par vous!*" The representations of the battles of Cocherel, where du Guesclin defeated the army of Charles the Bad, and that of Aurai, fought between Charles de Blois and the Count of Montfort, are the least injured.

Du Guesclin, after a long series of successes, was at length made prisoner, being covered with wounds, by Chandos, one of the most celebrated English warriors of his time. At the conclusion of the war France was so infested by the brigands, known by the name of the Grand Companies, and which were composed of the disbanded soldiers, that Charles found it necessary to stop their depredations by taking

king them into his pay, and employing them against Peter the Cruel, with whom he had declared war. In order to take the command of these companies, du Guesclin was ransomed for one hundred thousand crowns, and after assisting in dethroning Peter, and placing Henry of Transtimere on the throne of Portugal, was made Constable of France. He died in 1380, and was followed in a few months by his master, Charles the Fifth, whose reign was one of the most eventful in the history of Europe: in it, the English were driven out of France, artillery was first used in sieges, earthen ware and glasses were first manufactured in Italy, Gallileo invented the telescope, and the Bastile was erected. But though the belles lettres now began to be cultivated, and the arts that tend to increase the comforts of life, to be improved and extended, they were still only in their infancy; glass

windows,

windows, the wearing of linen, and the use of spoons and forks of silver, were considered as great luxuries.

My imagination had often carried me back to this age, when the long night of darkness that succeeded the fall of the Roman empire began to clear away, and the dawn of civilization again appeared in the west; but I could never form a satisfactory idea of the state of society at that time, until I visited Grand Cairo in Egypt with a detachment of the English army. Here I observed magnificent edifices, with their porticos and columns, their floors covered with the richest carpets, but the windows composed of lattices of open canework grotesquely stained of different colours, and the whole furniture confined to sofas and cushions. The pride, pomp and ignorance of the Beys and Turkish Chiefs, and the Dervishes reciting their exploits, recalled the chivalric Barons of antient times, whose

whose sole occupation was war, and who while they could neither read nor write themselves, maintained hosts of bards and minstrels to chant their valourous deeds. In this capital of Egypt the scenes that continually passed almost made me believe myself in a dream: long files of loaded camels conducted by Arabs, and bending on their knees to be relieved are freed from their burthens; a haughty Bey, magnificently clothed, mounted on a superb Arabian charger, caparisoned with gold and silver cloth, and preceded by guards on dromedaries armed only with staves, whose business is to proclaim his name, his titles, and his victories; the procession closed by Dervishes, covered with their white albarques thrown loosely round them, and their green turbans, denoting them as the ministers of the prophet, and who, instead of walking like rational beings, move onwards,

wards, continually spinning round like a top; the Bazars crowded with groups of the strangest figures; conjurors in every corner shewing off their legerdemain, and exposing extraordinary animals, particularly the ichneumon, which they instruct in all kinds of tricks;—these, and a thousand other novel sights, almost realize the descriptions of the Arabian Nights.

March 2. In the morning I quitted Beautoin and proceeded by a very bad road, and in still worse weather. At about three leagues distance my horse dropped a shoe, and I stopped at a small village to replace it; where the landlady of the auberge, discovering me to be an Englishman, informed me that there was a countrywoman of mine residing in the village, and married to a Frenchman; I accordingly paid her a visit, but from her conversation formed no high opinion of her rank in life. Although settled by choice amongst the

French,

French, she abused them as most odious animals, and told me, that notwithstanding tea was unknown to any other person in the deparment, and enormously dear, she had not been able to bring herself to forego it, and that she should certainly die if deprived of it. Such are the effects of national prejudice and habit. This woman added another to the many instances I have observed of the little credit the generality of English settled in France do their country, which they pretend to prize above every other, despising whatever is not English, or does not come from Old England;—for the credit of which, such persons should always remain at home.

After quitting this village the country became exceedingly wild, neither cultivated nor inhabited, and the road impassable for a wheel carriage. There were however considerable tracts of wood, but the trees appeared

appeared to be stunted. At a late hour I reached Rochebeaucour, a town of tolerable size, but very irregular, and the streets badly paved and dirty. The only meat the auberge afforded was veal, and that little superior to what is known in Ireland by the name of "*staggering bob;*" the calf not being more than a week old, which is the usual time it is kept in France, in order to give the meat a little solidity. Veal is indeed generally the only meat to be met with in small auberges and cabarets, at this season, while in those of a higher rank, you are always sure to find, according to the language of the hosts, either *un superbe gigot*, or *un magnifique dindon.*

March 3. Next morning being Sunday, the peasants flocked into the town to mass. The costume of both sexes was singular. That of the women consisted of broad brimmed white hats, a frill round their

necks and breasts, like Queen Elizabeth's ruff, their waists of unconscionable length, and kept in by a girdle, fastened with an enormous brass buckle, the petticoat very short, and so thick on the hips as to resemble hoops, and large brass buckles in the shoes. The men had immense cocked hats, coats with standing collars, and buttons according to the different fashions of the time the coats were made, and between some of them there could not be less than half a century; for among these good people the holiday suit descends from father to son for several generations, and they prize them as much for their antiquity as a British peer does his robes.

My route this day lay through a romantic country along a rocky bank, with extensive woods on each side, but the road miserably bad. After riding four leagues I reached a few poor houses, and as I was passing

passing the door of one which hung out a bush, I was called to by the landlady, who it seems had learned something of me from my servant, who had been making rather too free with the brandy bottle, and was half-seasover in the kitchen. I accordingly alighted and found a neat little table prepared, on which was immediately served the eternal dish of stewed veal; which reminded me of an anecdote on the subject of one constant dish, when I first entered the army. We were once in a situation where we had for a long time no other meat but salt pork; one of the officers, one day, rubbing his back for a long time against a window shutter, somebody asked him, what was the matter, when he replied, "why d—n it, "I have eat so much pork that I feel "the bristles growing out of my back." In fact, several of us experienced the same sensation; but whether it proceeded

from the cause assigned, or not, I must leave the Faculty to determine.

After quitting the hamlet, which is situated on an elevation, I passed through a wood into a fine valley of meadow ground, through which the Charente winds its course, and arrived at Angoulême. I did not think it prudent to stop at this town; for having deviated from the route laid down in my *feuille de route*, I might have been noticed by, and have received annoyance from the *gend'armes*: I therefore left my horse at a bye place, and, accompanied by an old man, walked through the town, whose size I found not unimportant, it containing thirteen thousand inhabitants. It is finely situated on the banks of the Charente, which, forming a bend, nearly encircles the rocky eminence on which it is built. The streets are in general wide, and many of the houses built of hewn stone, which the rock

rock affords. It has the appearance of some trade, there being considerable bustle, which however is no criterion to form a judgment upon in France, where the people always make much ado about nothing.

Angoulême was conspicuous in the civil wars of the Ligue, and was taken in 1508, by Admiral Coligny ; it was also the birth place of the famous Ravaillac. It is now a prefecture ; has criminal and commercial tribunals of the first class ; and possesses considerable paper manufactories, which employ a good number of hands.

On leaving Angoulême I proceeded by the great Paris road, which was crowded with carts and waggons. The construction of the latter attracted my notice from their being very heavily laden, and only drawn by three horses an end : they are very long, have but two wheels, and are loaded in such a manner that the horizontal line is

preserved, so that the axletree is in a line with the horse's body, and by this means there is neither an up-draft nor one that presses too much downwards. By this preservation of the equilibrium, the waggon follows with the utmost ease, and the animals are not distressed, though the weight is above three tons. Finding all the cabarets filled with waggoners, I pursued my journey till near night, when I was at last obliged to put up at one with wretched accommodation;—but I made myself as comfortable as circumstances would admit, and by the assistance of a segar passed the evening without much yawning.

March 4. The following day the roads became very bad. The soft free-stone of which they are composed, must prevent their being ever very good; but at this time, the heavy rains and the constant passage of wheeled carriages, had rendered them

them almost impassable, from the deep ruts and the dissolution of the stone into mud resembling mortar. In the evening I reached a middling town, named Ruffec, where the landlady of the inn spoke so fairly that I did not think it necessary to make any previous bargain; but in the morning had reason to repent of not taking that precaution, for the charge was so enormous that I refused paying it, and had recourse to the mayor, who without hesitation reduced it one half. Here I must strongly recommend to all persons travelling in France to agree for every item of their accommodation before hand: with this precaution, in no country is comfortable travelling more cheap; but neglect it, and you are sure to meet nothing but extortion and vexation. A dinner rather a supper, with a bottle of common wine, a fire and a bed, ought not to cost more than four francs a head. The charge of the

tables d'hôte, where the diligences stop, is from two to three francs; and for this sum you have two courses and a desert, with a bottle of table wine.

March 5. The road this day was even worse than yesterday, and on coming up with my servant, who preceded me as usual, I found his horse had thrown and much hurt him, which caused some delay: I did not therefore arrive at the village of les Minieres, till late in the evening, from whence next day's stage brought me to Poictiers.

CHAPTER XXXI.

Poictiers..... Field of battle .... Chatelleraut .... Ormes.... Tours.

THE first view of Poictiers is fine; situated in a valley, through which the river Clain serpentizes in the most agreeable manner, it at once bursts on the view from an eminence by which it is approached. The town is however dull, gloomy, and very dirty; and the inn of the Trois Piliers, to which I was recommended, I found so abominable, that I determined to proceed on my journey after the horses had rested; during which time I took a rapid glance at the town. The public walk runs along a steep cliff overhanging the river, on which are several mills, and the opposite bank

bank presents an ascent of corn fields, in form of an amphitheatre, interspersed with patches of romantic rock; but though there are many situations eminently fine, not a single house of any appearance is seen throughout the whole landscape.

The cathedral is a grand edifice; and what is most extraordinary respecting it is, that though it served as a barrack during a part of the revolution, no part of it received the least injury, except that all the aristocratical emblems and titles were carefully erased from the gravestones, and republican ones substituted. The bishop's mitre was metamorphosed into the *bonnet rouge;* and instead of "*ci-gît Monseig-* "*neur,*" was read "*ci-gît le citoyen évêque* "*de —.*" The mitre has however again resumed its place; and the noble shades can no longer be offended by their names being

being prefaced with the republican epithet *citoyen.*

Poictiers is the chief town of the department of Vienne, and contains about eighteen thousand inhabitants. It had formerly some flourishing silk manufactures, but they are now almost abandoned, and there is little appearance of industry or business in the streets. It has a special school for the study of the law; and a lyceum, in which two hundred and fifty students receive board, lodging, and instruction, for about £30 a year. This city was the residence of Charles the Seventh, who removed hither the parliament of Paris during the wars with England.

Near Poictiers are the ruins of a Roman amphitheatre, in sufficient preservation to shew its shape and extent; also an aqueduct, and other antiquities.

March 6. Quitting Poictiers, I passed through

through a very beautiful country, highly cultivated, and enlivened by many respectable houses. The soil here changes from the loamy sand I had hitherto noticed, and which is chiefly preferable for vines, to a stiff clay. About a mile and a half from the city was fought the famous battle in 1356, and a countryman, of whom I inquired, pointed out a meadow as the field of battle; but in its rear is a rising ground in the shape of a crescent, on which I suppose the French army was placed, as it would then have had the city behind it. I did not pass this spot without an interesting recollection of the renown gained here by our ancestors, more than four centuries ago, and consoled myself for the loss of our dominions in France, with the reflection that, had that dominion continued, instead of unadulterated Britons we should now perhaps be half French.

Pursuing

Pursuing my route, I crossed the river Vienne by a handsome stone bridge, at the little village of Barres de Nintré, and arrived at Chatelleraut, on that river, which is here two hundred yards wide, and is navigated by sailing barges, which bring all bulky merchandize from Nantes by the Loire, entering the Vienne, where it falls into that river near the town of Chouze.

Chatelleraut is the Birmingham of France; but the hardware and cutlery fabricated here, though well polished, is wretchedly finished; and the steel of very bad quality. The iron with which the manufactories are supplied is procured from mines in the neighbourhood, as well as the coals for working it. I visited one of the most extensive manufactories, in which there was much bustle, but little work; nor did the labour seem to be divided to advantage, for one person performs two or three

operations,

operations, which must not only diminish the product, but also reduce the specific profit. Adam Smith, in his *Wealth of Nations*, admirably explains the advantages of the division of labour, in the instance of the seemingly trivial operation of making a pin. " A workman," says he, " not " educated to this business, which the di- " vision of labour has rendered a distinct " trade, nor acquainted with the use of " the machinery employed in it, to the in- " vention of which the same division of " labour has probably given occasion, could " perhaps with his utmost industry scarce " make one pin in a day, and certainly " could not make twenty; but, in the way " in which the business is now carried on, " not only the whole work is a peculiar " trade, but it is divided into a num- " ber of branches, of which the great- " er part are likewise peculiar trades.

" One

" One man draws out the wire, another " straightens it, a third cuts it, a fourth " points it, a fifth grinds it at the top for " receiving the head; to make the head " requires two or three distinct operations; " to put it on is a peculiar business, to " whiten the pin is another; it is even a " trade by itself to put them into paper; " and the important business of making a " pin is in this manner divided into about " eighteen distinct operations, which are " all performed by distinct hands."

Chatelleraut was formerly the property of the Comte de Clermont, and was purchased from him by Louis XV. in 1736, who established here some manufactories of fine woollens and ratteens, which, while assisted by government, were in a flourishing state; but since that assistance has been withdrawn they have rapidly declined, and are now almost totally inactive, from the want

want of capital and of confidence, which at this moment throughout France prevents any considerable mercantile speculation, either among individuals or associations. Nothing, indeed, can prove the commercial stagnation more forcibly than the short credit given to country dealers by the wholesale merchants, which never exceeds three months.

On quitting Chatelleraut, I was happy to find the road clear of carriages, which had hitherto considerably annoyed me from the bad management of the horses, by which they formed a kind of echellon, that occupied the whole road, and obliged me often to perform the figure of a country dance, to extricate myself from them. At Chatelleraut, as I have before observed, the goods brought by land are embarked on the Vienne; and the road follows the course of this

this river, the banks of which are fertile, and well cultivated.

In the evening I reached the little village of Agron, two leagues from Chatelleraut, where I put up at a very indifferent auberge. In the morning (March 7) I observed several droves of very fine bullocks passing through the village, and, on inquiry, found some of them had been driven from considerable distances, and were going to Paris, which is seventy-eight leagues from this village. The expense of each bullock in this long journey is valued at twenty-five francs; but as the capital always offers a sure market at a fixed price, it is found more profitable to send them there than to dispose of them in the country.

On the morning of the 8th, I passed through the village of Ormes, near which is the magnificent château of the *ci-devant* Marquis de Voyé d'Argenson, whose fa-

mily has been famous in the political annals of France. The present representative of the family was long confined in the revolutionary dungeons, and all his property confiscated. Enough, however, was saved by his friends from the general wreck, to re-purchase this château and its domain, and its proprietor has deigned to accept the title of Count from Napoleon, and to fill the office of Prefect of Antwerp.

After quitting Ormes, I crossed the river Creuse, which unites with the Vienne near the village of Beauvais. Here I baited the horses, and dined off a pig's ear in the kitchen of a cabaret, which was crowded with strange figures, with whom I amused myself so long, that it was night before I arrived at my destination, and a most violent rain and storm, with a pitchy darkness, rendered it difficult to keep the road. At length I reached a single house, called

St.

St. Catharine's, the landlady of which was a perfect monster in appearance, and her manners did justice to her figure. While making me a fire, an old female servant let me into her mistress's history; who, she acquainted me, had amassed considerable property in her business, and being now grown purse-proud, instead of being civil to travellers, to whom she owed every thing, she did not even thank them for the money they spent in her house; "but," continued my informant, with the air of having made a notable discovery, "ingratitude is too com-"mon in the world." This old woman's language was so far above her condition, that I could not forbear inquiring into her history, and learned that before the revolution she had possessed a considerable property in the town and neighbourhood of Chatelleraut, left her by her husband; that she had an only son, whom she bred up with

the fondest care, but who, when all law had ceased, unnaturally seized on the property, and turned her out a wanderer on the world. She wrote to her husband's brother, who came from Normandy, to endeavour to procure her justice; but the son being one of the *sans culottes*, denounced him to his fellow miscreants as a royalist; when he was seized, and without being permitted to vindicate himself, was cut off by the guillotine. The son still enjoys the property, and revels in luxury, while his aged mother has for twelve years been obliged to labour for a miserable subsistence. "Thus, Monsieur," she concluded, "God "knows I have experienced my share "of ingratitude!" A call from without, obliged her to quit the room, and left me to ponder on the vicissitudes of human affairs, and on the effects of revolutions. The recollection of this being the anniversary of

the

the landing of the British army in Egypt, roused me from these melancholy thoughts; but I had still to regret the want of society to celebrate that memorable day, and render palatable the very bad wine I was obliged to put up with.

March 9. Pursuing my journey the following day, through a flat and marshy country and over a paved road, I arrived at Tours, by a very fine avenue of trees, extending to the gates of the town. I had hardly got safely housed in the Hôtel de l'Impératrice, when I received a visit from Mr. Cane, a domiciliated Irishman, usually known by the appellation of *Claret Cane*, from his superior judgment in and excellent cellar of this wine. He was accompanied by Captain Gerrard, of the East-India Company's service. With these gentlemen I spent a pleasant evening, and the next morning (March 10) was visited by

several other English gentlemen, particularly Mr. Holland, a person of considerable property. I dined this day with Captain Gerrard, and found his wife an agreeable woman, surrounded by a delightful little family. At dinner was Mr. Wilkes, who, I believe, had been a priest, and who to his other knowledge, by his long residence in France, added that of all the distinguished families in the neighbourhood, and of their sufferings during the revolution. He entertained us with a lively and interesting sketch of the civil wars, which so long desolated this part of France during the contest between the Guises and the Condés. As I was well acquainted with the principal families of Tours, by having studied at the academy of Angers, I was gratified in hearing their histories; but I found that very few remained, and that Tours and its environs, from having been one of the

the most sociable parts of France, had become one of the dullest, every person being suspicious of his neighbour. All social intercourse was at an end, while the jealousy of the Government and the system of *espionnage* destroyed confidence even in the nearest relatives.

March 11. In the forenoon Mr. Gerrard accompanied me to visit the commandant of Tours, General Bonnard, whom we found writing in his office, and who had not even the civility to notice us, but continued to write on, or at least seemed to do so; for from his vulgar appearance one might doubt whether he could write or not. Captain Gerrard had with him a little terrier dog, of which the General took more notice than of his master, for he ordered one of his staff to turn him out of the room; but the latter being sufficient of a gentleman to know that an injury to a dog is con-

sidered as an insult to its master, replied, that it belonged to that gentleman, pointing to Captain Gerrard. "*C'est égal,*" said the General, "*faites le sortir.*" While examining the countenance and appearance, and observing the manners of this general officer, I could not help wondering how the French Emperor, who has the character of great penetration in the selection of his officers, could have made choice of such a fellow, whose manners scarcely fitted him for a shoeblack. It is indeed such upstarts that have brought discredit on the French military service since the revolution. By a haughty contemptuous manner, they doubtless think to inspire a high idea of their courage, but which, to those who have a knowledge of character, has a directly opposite effect. In the proud days of chivalry, courage and politeness were inseparable, and incivility and cowardice

were

were almost synonimous terms. Disgusted with the rudeness of the General, I rose, and was departing without having spoken a word, when he followed me to the door, and inquired if I had any thing particular to say? I replied, that I had merely called to pay him a visit of attention; on which he muttered something I did not understand, and making a most formal bow, I retired, without uttering another word. I then mounted my horse, and rode along the south bank of the river, which was low, and, in several places, covered with water. The northern bank was covered with chalky and stony hills, rising like an amphitheatre from the river, and which are highly cultivated, and thickly dotted with villages. On this bank was situated the celebrated monastery of Marmoutiers, of which scarce a vestige remains.

March

March 11. This day I dined with Mr. Holland, in company with several Englishmen, and among the rest Mr. Latter, a grave and sensible gentleman, but rather ecoentric in his appearance and dress, the latter being far behind the fashion. His manners, which were quite gentleman-like, however, covered this singularity; and, besides, he possessed the character of benevolence and kindness.

March 12. In the morning I strolled through the town, which is the chief place of the department of the Indre and Loire. It is situated at the confluence of the Cher and Loire; the latter river is here very broad, and is navigated by sailing barges of sixty to seventy tons, which ascend from Nantes to Orleans, where they enter a canal that conveys them to Paris. The Loire is crossed at Tours by a handsome bridge of sixteen elliptical arches. The manufactures

manufactures of this city are confined to a few of silk, which are in a languid state; and its principal trade at present consists in the quantities of prunes it sends to all parts of France.

The principal street of Tours is uniform and elegant, the fronts of the houses with cut stone, having been built by government; several are however still unfinished. The cathedral is a beautiful gothic structure. During the revolution it was converted into a Temple of Reason, for which use it was fitted up like a Roman theatre; and from a rostrum, in the place of the grand altar, the republican demagogues fulminated their anti-social and anti-christian doctrines. It is now restored to its original appearance and use.

Tours was anciently well fortified, and the ramparts which still remain afford a pleasant

pleasant promenade, though the trees which formerly shaded them have been all cut down.

The tower from which the Duke of Guise made his escape, in the wars of the League 1591, still remains, and retains the marks of the artillery that played on it from the opposite side of the river. The manner of the Duke's escape is thus related: having made his guards, who were ordered never to lose sight of him, partly drunk, he proposed to wager, that if they would give him so much distance, he would hop to the top of the tower by a winding staircase faster than they could run it; the wager being accepted, and the distance given, the Duke set out, and reached the top before his staggering followers; he there found a rope, prepared for him secretly by some of his friends, by which he descended,

descended, and swimming across the river, joined his army, and revived the hopes of the league.

The ruins of the ancient bridge are still seen opposite the town, where so many bloody battles were fought between the English and French.

On the right bank of the river, opposite the town, are several neat villages, and handsome country houses. On this side is also a perpendicular rock, against which houses are built in parallel rows above each other, so that some can only be reached by descending from the summit of the rock, and others only by ascending from its foot. These houses form a kind of suburb, extending a considerable way along the river, and are said to possess the advantage of being extremely cool in summer.

While I was getting my hair cut in a hair-dresser's shop, the master of which entertained

entertained me with violent complaints of the hardness of the times, and of the many bankruptcies, in consequence of, what he termed, *le maudit décret de Berlin*, a poor woman, who had lost her senses from being ruined by one of these bankruptcies, ran wildly into the street, and throwing herself under the wheels of a loaded waggon, was instantly crushed to death!

As I was returning home, I recollected wanting some cord to secure my trunks, and observing a kind of tent or booth with some hanging out, I entered it. The master was not above four feet and a half high, with his arms short in proportion to his height; and I found that he took advantage of his want of stature to increase his profits; for instead of using a regular measure he sold his goods by arm's length, which he calculated, as is usual in a middle sized man, at six feet, although his did not extend

tend more than four feet and a half. As he, however, sold his goods nominally cheaper, and was a most ridiculous and humorous fellow, people flocked to his booth to purchase his goods and laugh at his repartees. Thus Nature, ever bountiful, where she leaves a part of her work defective, compensates in another, and thus the world goes on, each contented with himself and with others.

I had a party to dinner this day, but all my rhetoric was insufficient to prevail on my landlady to serve it *à l'Anglaise;* that is, to give the fish and vegetables as part of the first course. Her obstinacy so put me out of temper that, to her great astonishment and mortification, I threw the whole of her first course, consisting entirely of French dishes, out of the window, dishes included; and, ordering up the

the second, we made a tolerable dinner off it.

March 13. This morning I found my host's family in the greatest despair and consternation; and on inquiring of the daughter, a beautiful girl, into the cause, she informed me that her only brother had just been drawn for the conscription; and, weeping bitterly, added, that she loved him like herself, and that they had never yet been separated. The father and mother could not have expressed more sorrow, if they had just received the news of their son's having been drowned in the Loire; and I learnt that this sorrow was not without reason, for on this only son, in whose education they had spared no expense, rested all their hopes and wishes. I was induced to visit the Hôtel de Ville, where the conscription was drawing, and witnessed the different feelings of mothers, sisters, and mis-

mistresses, in the countenances of the females on this melancholy occasion. The conscription is indeed considered by all ranks with the most profound horror: parents grasp with avidity at every means of saving their children from it, and hence arises impositions and roguery to a great extent; for swindlers, pretending to have influence, and the means of shielding youths, levy enormous contributions on their families; and though there is a severe fine and imprisonment attached to this violation of the law, yet it is too profitable not to be universally practised. Many instances are known of young men going a surer way to work, to escape the conscription, by previously cutting off one or two of their fingers.

CHAPTER XXXII.

Amboise....Blois.

On the morning of the 14th of March I quitted Tours and proceeded towards Amboise, accompanied by Messrs. Holland and M'Clure. Our road lay along the left bank of the Loire, and through a most beautiful country, well deserving the name it has received of the garden of Touraine. Amboise is eight leagues from Tours. Here we put up at the Lion d'Or, and got a tolerable dinner, particularly some fine eels; but with the usual obstinacy of the French, they were served up without sauce, and before we could prevail on the cook to melt some butter they were cold: indeed, plain melted butter is the only sauce difficult

difficult to be procured from a French cook, who considers it an abomination. It is a common expression in France, that "the "English have fifty-two religions, and but "one sauce;" and we may very fairly retort on them, by replying, that they have fifty-two sauces and no religion.

March 15. I breakfasted this morning in company with my Tours friends at Mr. Cramer's, an English gentleman, married to a French lady, whose brother and sister also formed a part of the family; the former had just returned from the army in Spain, and seemed to find such an essential difference between the comforts of his brother's house and the miseries of a Spanish campaign, that he proposed spending a considerable time with him. Mr. Cramer I should however suppose is little calculated to be comfortable in French society; for his serious and studious disposition could not

well assimilate with the frivolity of French manners and conversation.

After breakfast we visited the castle of Amboise, situated on the rocky height overhanging the town. Its antiquity is dated to the first of the Roman emperors. In it were born Francis the First, Hugh Capet and Charles the Seventh: the latter prince as well as Louis the XI. also died in it. After passing through many hands, it became the property of the late Duke de Penthievre, and when wrested from him at the revolution, was converted into a state prison; at present it belongs to a senator.

At one angle of the castle is a round tower, within which a carriage with six horses may ascend from the town to the court-yard of the castle; in the centre of the tower is shewn the remains of an *Oubliette*, destined for the punishment of state criminals, in the reign of Charles XI; during which

which upwards of four thousand persons of rank suffered death in public or private. Amongst those of the first consequence, were, the Constable de St. Paul and his brother-in-law the Count d'Armagnac. The Duke de Nemours was shut up in an iron cage, by order of this sanguinary monster, and as a refinement in cruelty, when brought to execution at Paris, the King ordered his children to be held under the scaffold to be sprinkled with the blood of their father.

But to return to the *Oubliette*: it is a wall forty feet in diameter, and about one hundred feet deep; wooden rollers were placed across it at certain distances, turned round by machinery, and to which were fixed several two edged knives. The victim being precipitated into the abyss, and falling from one roller to another, was minced to pieces before he reached the bottom. As this punishment was always inflicted secretly, and

the victim never more heard of, it received the appropriate name of *les Oubliettes*.

In this castle the sanguinary Louis XI. instituted the order of St. Michel, in 1649. In the chapel are preserved the horns of a deer, (killed in remote times in a hunt,) which between the points are twelve feet eight inches French; the ribs of the same animal were six feet four inches long. We were shewn the apartments occupied by the unfortunate Princess de Lamballe, and those of the amiable and virtuous daughter of the Duc de Penthievre, the wife of the abominable Egalité. Voltaire was once governor of this castle. It is now fitting up for the residence of the Senator, to whom it has been granted; but the modern stile of the furniture does not at all harmonize with the antique appearance of the apartments. From a balcony inclosed by an iron railing and entered from one of the windows, is a noble

view

view of the river. This balcony was formerly the place of execution of state criminals, and the blood of one victim was seldom dry on it before it was again wet with that of another, during the civil wars of the Guises and Condés, in the reign of Charles IX. and during the administration of Catharine de Medicis.

The gardens of the castle are curiously laid out, and contain a number of scarce plants. An Acacia tricanthus particularly struck me from its enormous size, having the dimensions of a timber tree. Of the branches of this species of thorn was formed the crown placed on the head of our Saviour at his crucifixion. There is also a pleasant walk formed and shaded by evergreens, and a Cesar's camp in view.

Leaving the castle of Amboise we visited the château of Chanteloup, about half a

league distant, situated on an eminence, a little way from the banks of the Loire, of which it commands a fine view. It belonged to the celebrated Duc de Choiseul, and hither he retired when exiled from court. Lord Bolingbroke, when banished from England, also resided in this château. It is at present the property of M. Chaptal, *ci-devant* apothecary and chemist, and now Secretary to the Senate and Comte de l'Empire. The gardens are laid out in the antient stile of formal walks and regular parterres; and there is an artificial piece of water on the domain on which was a boat intended for sailing, but rigged in such an uncouth manner as certainly to be unmanageable. The dullness that reigned throughout could not fail to affect us, when we reflected on the scenes of gaiety and pleasure which formerly made the walls resound. The old concierge, who shewed

shewed the château, told us that he had often seen fifty different bed-chambers occupied by visitors, and thirty to forty carriages, with four and six horses each, parade before the gate every morning. The company were not only accommodated with horses and carriages, but dogs and guns were at the command of those who chose to shoot, while a pack of hounds afforded those fond of nobler sport the pleasureof hunting the wild boar and deer.

The present possessor seems to neglect this mansion, as if he was still uncertain whether he might not be again called on to restore it to its rightful owner. Two or three rooms only are simply furnished, to serve for a day or two's visit, and all the rest present the naked walls; even the tapestry hangings having been torn down and the glasses removed. The stables and outoffices were equally empty, with the exception

tion of some appropriated to Merino sheep, of which M. Chaptal has here a flock of sixteen hundred. These animals have furnished a considerable object of speculation since the invasion of Spain; all the generals serving in that country, and possessed of lands in France, having taken the opportunity of sending vast numbers to their estates. When I past through Bourdeaux there were six thousand head for sale, on account of General Beliard, which, allowing them to bring the low price of three louis a head, makes no small addition to the other trifles the General could not have failed to pick up in Spain: for nothing in the way of plunder comes amiss to a Frenchman; and we may safely wager, that if France was to wage war in Circassia, the Grand Seignior's harem would be replenished by the French generals.

The person charged with the care of M. Chaptal's

Chaptal's Merinos, informed me that the increase of lambs enabled him to dispose of sheep to the amount of eighty thousand francs a year. The wool sells for three francs the pound, and the average weight of a fleece is ten pounds.

March 16. Pursuing my journey from Amboise, I crossed the Loire by two bridges; one of stone, extending from the left bank of the river to an island, and the second of wood, joining the island to the right bank. The country still continued extremely fertile and well cultivated, and I observed that vetches were more attended to here than in any part of the country I had yet passed through. The river Loire is navigated by barges of considerable size, but of the clumsiest construction, with an immense rudder and a long tiller, the traversing end of which is above the head of the man that steers.

Two

Two leagues from Amboise is the château of Chenonceau, built by Bohier, a general under Francis the First, and the residence of the beautiful Diana de Poitiers, mistress to Henry the Second. It afterwards was successively occupied by Catherine de Medicis, by the Princes of Vendome and Condé, and by Monsieur du Pin, fermier-général. At present it belongs to Monsieur Villeneuve, Chamberlain to the King of Holland.

On the opposite bank of the Loire to the village of Eu, where we fed our horses, is another château, of an ancient and respectable appearance, with many towers, and commanding an extensive view of the river. It belongs to Monsieur Ré, an ancient noble. On my arrival at Blois, I put up at the Boule d'Or, and was put into a good looking apartment, in which was a glass through the chimney, that afforded a beautiful

tiful view down the lower end of its handsome bridge. My dinner here was very bad, and rendered still more disagreeable, by the intrusion and impertinence of the cook, who every moment entered the room to demand, "*Eh bien, Monsieur l'Anglois, comment trouvez-vous votre dîner?*" adding, "*On dit que les cuisiniers de votre pays ne sont pas trop habiles.*"—I replied, "if that is the case, you may be assured they wont come to you to learn, for of all attempts at cookery I ever met with, yours is the very worst." This fellow now entered on a defence of his cookery, which I put a stop to, by inquiring if there was nothing else dressed in the house? He disappeared, and soon after returned with a roast duck, a bird to which of all others I have the most mortal aversion; I therefore, to the astonishment of the cook, threw it deliberately

berately into the fire, and sent the other dishes after it; at the same time desiring *Monsieur le Cuisinier* to take himself off, if he did not wish to follow them. Soon after his quitting the room, a great, stout, impudent looking girl entered, and, with a sort of officious raillery, asked me, "if I wanted "a *homme amie*, for if so she was at my "service?" I retorted in her own manner, by saying, "indeed, Mademoiselle, "your manners are so engaging, that "there is no resisting you; but at present "I shall not trouble you farther than to "desire you will clear the table, and bring "me some wood." When she returned, the cook accompanied her, and both began a species of banter, which not approving, I desired them to call the landlord; on whose appearance I asked him, "if the re-"volution was not yet over?" and on his answering "yes," continued, "then, Mon-

"sieur,

"sieur, you ought to inform these *bêtes*, "that there again exists in France a dis- "tinction of rank and persons;—therefore, "either make them immediately quit the "room, or order my horses, and I shall "depart from your house." This remon- strance had the desired effect, and I passed the rest of the evening without farther molestation.

March 17. The following morning I walked out early, and ascended a steep hill, on which is the castle famous on account of the assassination of the Duke de Guise. Its elevated situation gives it the complete com- mand of the town, and of a fine and exten- sive view. It has a considerable square, with two fronts, formerly very grand, but now going fast to decay, and used as a barrack; the avenues to it are also in a shamefully dirty and degraded state. Below the cas- tle, on the side of the hill, is the prefecture,

beautifully

beautifully situated, with some handsome gardens and walks, in good order.

The prefect of a department in France is the highest civil officer, and may be assimilated, as to his functions, to our lord lieutenant of a county; all the civil offices of the department, such as roads, civil buildings, bridges, &c. being within his resort, as well as the embodying of the national guard and the levying of conscripts. He is attended by a guard of *gend'armes*, when he visits any part of the department; has a house found by Government, and receives a very good salary. He always resides in the chief town of the department; and in one of the secondary towns is usually a *sous-préfet*, subordinate to the prefect, whose house is also found by Government, with a good salary.

The *maires* of towns are the next civil officers

officers to the *sous-préfets*; they are elected annually, and receive no salary or other emoluments, except what they can abstract from the money belonging to the town, which passes through their hands.'

This was the day, although Sunday, for drawing the conscription; and in order to drown sorrow, those who were to ballot had recourse to the wine bottle, and were playing at a variety of games. This appears to be greatly encouraged by the magistrates, in order to prevent the discontent that results from this abhorred measure. Indeed, in every respect, it seems to be the chief principle of the French government to suppress the murmurs of the people, by pompous declamations on the glory of *la grande nation*, by occasionally giving them representations at the theatres *gratis*, and by frightening them with the idea of being conquered by the English, whom

their Emperor decorates with the title of "tigers of the sea."

Blois is the chief town of the department of the Loire and Cher, and the seat of the various courts of law. It is built on the side of a hill, and contains about five thousand inhabitants, but the streets are so narrow and steep, that in some places they are formed by flights of steps. The bridge across the Loire is very handsome, being of cut stone, with several elliptical arches, an iron railing and lamps on the battlement, and a flagged pathway on each side, kept clean, which is a very unusual thing in France.

After breakfast I continued my journey over the bridge, in order to visit the château of Chambor, at which I arrived, after crossing a most intricate country, the roads consisting of mere pathways. The approach to the castle (an immense pile, with many large towers, and some lesser ones, crowned

crowned with spires), is by a very long avenue, through an extensive wood of fine full grown trees. The entrance is through a square, the sides of which form the offices, and are of great extent. The hall is extremely grand, and the ceiling forms a superb dome; the staircase is double, and winds round a pillar in such a manner, that persons may ascend and descend at the same moment, without the knowledge of each other. The whole is of massive stone.

This château was, I think, built by Francis the First, of whose reign there are many magnificent vestiges in France. It was possessed by Marshal Saxe, who died here; and the marble table was shewn me on which this great man had been embalmed, previous to his being sent to Strasburg to be interred.

The ceilings of the apartments, though

much decayed, still shew proofs of their ancient elegance. The *salle de spectacle*, in the centre of the building, is spacious, and was lined with very large pier glasses; the spaces they occupied are visible, but the glasses were destroyed in the revolution. The panes of glass in the windows exceeded four feet square. The park was more than fifteen miles round. In short, every thing evinces that Chambor was formerly one of the finest palaces of France.

It being already evening when I quitted the château, I was at a loss where to put up for the night; but on inquiry, learnt that the village of St. Diey was only a league distant. I therefore proceeded thither, and found it a poor place. On stopping at the house to which I had been recommended, I found the landlord so very drunk and the house so uncomfortable, that I left my servants and horses there, and proceeded to another, where, although the fare

fare was but middling, I was more comfortable. I had scarcely finished my dinner, when the adjoint, or deputy to the mayor, entered with the first landlord in the uniform of a *gend'arme*. The adjoint interrogated me in an overbearing manner, and concluded by informing me that "I "must go to prison, my account of myself "being very unsatisfactory; and that per- "sons of my description going through the "country might be attended with immi- "nent danger to the state." Rotten state, thought I; if such is the case, your foundation cannot be more solid than this block-head's understanding! As, however, I was in the fellow's power, policy directed me to be civil, and asking him to sit down and take a glass of wine, I observed to him that, "my *feuille de route* being in every respect "regular, pointing out a certain day for "my arrival at the depot, and ordering

" that I was not to be molested, but " that I was to receive every assistance " and facility from the authorities, to pur- " sue my journey, he could scarcely an- " swer for detaining me on the suggestion " of a drunken landlord, who was jealous " because I preferred another house to his." I concluded by informing him, that, " if " he persisted in sending me to prison, I " should state the business to the Minister " of War, and he might expect the most " serious consequences." This remonstrance had some effect, and he contented himself with informing me, that I must return to Blois the following morning with a *gend'arme*, where they could act more decisively.

March 18. I accordingly returned to Blois, escorted by a *gend'arme* and my first landlord, and the distance being only a league and half, over a beautiful turf, I enjoyed

joyed an excellent gallop, which repaid me for the detention. I was first escorted to the residence of the mayor, and thence to the commune; but not meeting with this magistrate, I was taken to the senior officer of the troops, who remanded me back to the mayor. This gentleman was now at home, and received me with true French politeness, telling me, with many bows, that my "*air distingué* ought to have "been a sufficient passport;" adding, that "I must excuse the ignorance of village "magistrates; but that when I entered a "town, I should be sure to meet with *les* "*hommes d'esprit et raisonnables.*" "Cer-"tainly, M. le Maire," replied I, "this "observation is proved in the present in-"stance;" and having thus returned his compliment with an equal sincerity, after much scraping, we parted.

My quondam landlord and the *gend'arme*

as if they expected to be paid for their trouble; but instead of giving them any money, I begged they would "present my compli-"ments to Monsieur l'Adjoint, and tell him "that I hoped he would recompence them "for the unnecessary trouble he had given "them."

I now pursued my journey through a beautiful and highly cultivated country, and by a very broad road, but much in want of repair. About two leagues from Blois I stopped to look at the demesne of Menaro, once the residence of the celebrated Madame de Polignac, and now a magnificent ruin. The gardens are cut into terraces, and must have been very grand; but are now totally neglected, and the alleys strewed with fragments of statues, broken to pieces by the revolutionists. The apartments appear to have been fitted up in a light and cheerful stile, and those of the grand front command a fine view of the Loire. The

extensiv

extensive deer park, which is surrounded by a wall, is now turned up and cultivated. I inquired of the people in the house to whom the demesne at present belonged, but they could not tell me. Doubtless, it is the property of some *parvenu*, who resides at Paris, where he can conceal the meanness of his origin in the crowd, or, at least, where he may find a host of fellow upstarts to keep him in countenance.

I had intended remaining the night at a village near this mansion, but the people of the auberge were so uncivil, that I determined to proceed. French and English innkeepers are perhaps equally extortionate; but by the latter you are, at least, civilly cheated, while the former fleece you, and at the same time treat you with neglect, if not impertinence. You may alight from your carriage or horse without attendance, and it is often some time before you can find

find any one that will take the trouble of shewing you a room; besides, as there are no bells in one house out of ten, you must go to the kitchen yourself for whatever you want. Another nuisance in French inns, is the coarse strapping wenches who usually attend, and whose loquacity and impudent familiarity there is no checking.

About three leagues from the village I met with a small house and a more civil reception, and here I put up for the night. The succeeding morning (March 19) I pursued my journey, through a flat country, along the banks of the Loire, to the middling sized town of Meung, where I experienced scarcely a more civil reception from the host and hostess of the Turk's Head than if they had been Turks themselves. I therefore quitted them in the morning without breakfast, and reached Orleans at two o'clock.

CHAPTER XXXIII.

Orleans....National partiality....English sailor....
Birth of the King of Rome.... Itinerant sleight of hand man.

I WAS scarcely housed at the Dolphin, at Orleans, when I was waited on by an English shoemaker named Chalmers, who appeared to be a complete quidnunc in French politics. He however met with a very cool reception, as I generally conclude that these kind of gentry have either quitted their country to escape the gallows, or Botany Bay, for treasonable practices; or what almost deserves the same punishment, to introduce or improve manufactures at the expense of their own country. —I had a more agreeable visitor in Mr. Thompson,

Thompson, an old companion in scenes of gaiety in London, and with whom I dined, in company with Major Popham, another old acquaintance, with whom I had been encamped at Marmorice Bay, in Asia Minor. Here I spent a most agreeable evening with Mrs. Thompson, her amiable daughter, and promising son, who seemed to burn with military ardour, and whom I find has since entered the service, to which I have no doubt he will be an ornament.

March 21. In the morning I visited the town, which contains upwards of forty thousand inhabitants; it was the capital of the ancient Orleanois, and is at present of the department of Loiret. Its situation on the Loire, and nearly in the centre of ancient France, as well as the fertility of the surrounding country, renders it one of the most flourishing inland towns of France. It was formerly a considerable depot of co-

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lonial produce, which it received by the Loire from Nantes; and in despite of the present general stagnation of commerce, still retains a considerable share of business, its chief manufactures for export being brandy, vinegar, leather, wax candles, earthenware, and woollen bonnets, with which latter it supplies all the adjacent departments.*

The sieges which Orleans sustained by Attala in 450, and by the English in 1418, render it celebrated in history. A new statue of its heroine, Joan of Arc, has been erected in the principal place; the old one of this extraordinary amazon having shared the general fate of great characters during the revolution, though it might be supposed that the memory of her services would have saved her head from the general proscription.

I paid

* The forest of Orleans is fifty miles in length, and fifteen in breadth.

I paid Mrs. Thompson a visit in the afternoon, and was amused by some curious anecdotes of our countrymen, whom she had occasion to see passing through Orleans. She had at this time an English sailor in the house, whom she desired might be called in; but Jack was searched for in vain, until the cook demanded if the well had been looked into, for that its bottom was his usual place of retreat? We therefore accompanied her to it, and on her calling, "*allons, Jack!*" she was immediately answered with a "holla, here "am I!"—"Come along, Jack," said I in a slang sailor's voice, and up came a fine manly looking tar, hand over head, by the iron chain from a depth of sixty feet. Seizing me by the hand, and shaking it with Herculean power, "why, then, "d—n me," cried he, "but I am glad to "see a real countryman, for as for these "here French people they talk so fast, and

"plague

" plague me so, that I can find no place " of rest but the bottom of the well, and " there I am sure none of them will dare " venture to follow me." He then related his story, *as how* he had been wounded and taken in a gun boat; and *as how*, in passing through Orleans in a most miserable plight, Mrs. Thompson had kindly taken him into the house; " but," continued he, " though " these people are too civil to me by half, I " would prefer a piece of salt junk and a " biscuit with a countryman, to the finest " dinner with your French people; for, " some how or other, I don't over and " above like their ways." The cosmopolite philanthrophist will here doubtless pity that ignorance, which thus creates national partiality and perpetuates national jealousy. But though we may desire to see this narrow prejudice swept from the minds of per-

sons

sons in the higher classes, God forbid that ever the genuine John Bull should be so far enlightened. While every English soldier and sailor is intimately convinced that he is equal to two Frenchmen in any kind of fight, there is little danger of his not supporting that superiority; but let him once begin to doubt if a Frenchman is not as good as an Englishman, and the odds are entirely done away. With respect to national hatred, however, there is, to use the old adage, very little love lost between the French and ourselves, but the causes are very different: they envy us, but we despise them.—"I hate a Frenchman," says Goldsmith's old soldier, "because he's a "slave and wears wooden shoes!"

This being the anniversary of the much lamented death of General Sir Ralph Abercrombie, under whom Major Popham and myself

myself had served, we dined together, and did not fail to drink to the memory of that good and gallant officer.

March 22. The following day I dined with Mr. Thompson, at whose house the Mayor and a polite party met in the evening. In the morning I had a very early and unexpected visit from the Commissary of Police, who desired to see my passport, and after reading it observed, "that my "servant's name was not inserted in it;" then putting it in his pocket departed, saying "he would return in a few minutes." In fact, he very soon re-appeared, accompanied by a corporal, four soldiers, and three *gend'armes*, one of whom held a piece of rope in his hand. I was at a loss to divine what their intention was; but the Commissary soon let me know, that my servant's name not being in my *feuille de route*, he must go to prison till the Empe-

ror's pleasure could be known. " A very " interesting subject indeed to the Empe- " ror!" said I; " but pray, Monsieur, " why all this formidable preparation? a " single *gend'arme* might, I should sup- " pose, have been sufficient to secure an un- " armed man, and you would have besides " avoided drawing a mob round the house." To this he made no reply, except by a look of official consequence, and a *gend'arme* proceeded to pinion the poor fellow with the rope, and then putting a noose over his thumb, twisted it tight with a bit of stick. Thus secured he was driven into the street, where a great crowd was assembled. Lest the people might believe that he was taken up for a robbery, or some other heinous crime, I told them it was entirely owing to the stupidity of a clerk, who had omitted inserting his name, as my servant, in the passport; then turning to the Commissary,

" now,

" now, Sir," said I with a sneer, " have " but the kindness to draw your sword, " and the scene will be complete." He grumbled something in rage, which making me laugh, the whole mob also set up a roar, which almost put him into a convulsive passion. He however marched off the man, and confined him in a subterraneous dungeon.

I immediately waited on the Mayor, in whose company I had spent the preceding evening, and in whose liberal manners I was not mistaken, for he immediately ordered the man to be released, and reprimanded the Commissary, who he informed me had only been in office a few days, and, he imagined, wished to give a brilliant proof of his zeal. This fellow called on me afterwards, I suppose to make an apology, but I desired him to go about his business.

March 23. The following day, the birth

of the King of Rome was known by an express from Paris, and announced by *les affiches* in the streets, directing a general illumination, and pompously declaiming on the joyful event, which fixed the destinies of the French nation, and which every true Frenchman must hail as the greatest blessing from Heaven! I remained a considerable time pretending to read one of these *affiches*, to observe the people collected for the same purpose; and although none made any verbal comments, it was easy to read the expression of their sentiments in their countenances. A few seemed to read it with indifference, but not one shewed the slightest movement of approbation. Among the crowd a barber particularly amused me; for though he was as silent as the rest, his sharp nose, whimsical countenance, and comic shrugs, were supereminently characteristic of a French-

man

man bursting with the desire, but afraid to speak. The illumination was most miserable, and reminded me of Milton's darkness visible.

March 24. In passing through the street the next morning, a fellow blowing a French horn, and surrounded by a great crowd, attracted my attention. I found he was one of the numerous corps of itinerant sleight of hand performers, who infest every part of France, and who certainly would not be allowed to vagabondize about the country, if they were not of some utility. The fact is, that they are all spies of the police; and therefore not only tolerated, but paid, in order to discover and report the opinions of the people. In the course of their tricks these fellows make some humourous allusion to the government and its measures, and their companions, who are dispersed

amongst the crowd, watch for the remarks and even the gestures that it occasions. Should any one be indiscreet enough to speak his opinion too openly, though no immediate notice is taken of him, he is almost to a certainty arrested some days after and thrown into a dungeon; from which if he ever comes out, it is only to be placed under the *surveillance de la haute police*, a punishment nearly as bad as imprisonment; for he cannot absent himself twenty-four hours from his residence without the permission of the officers of police, before whom he is obliged to appear once a week; and who have also the right of paying him a domiciliary visit by night or day, to examine his papers, and, if they choose, to arrest him, without any form of law or assigning any reason. It short, to make him suffer all the vexations that the subaltern agents of a despotic and suspicious government are always

ways so willing to inflict when they have the power. How may Old England bless the memory of those Barons bold, who, in the field of Runnimede, forced a tyrant to accord the palladium of liberty! how may Britons pride themselves in that constitution and those laws, which establish and preserve the true rights of man, in the protection of property, personal liberty, and the equal distribution of justice!

The forced rejoicings for the birth of an heir to the empire were the following day succeeded by real sorrow and consternation at the failure of the house of Tassien, supposed to be the richest in the country. Its deficit was three millions of francs; a sum which, even in England, would be considered as of consequence, but which in France, where there is so little capital, is enormous. This house carried on an extensive woollen manufacture, the ramifica-

tions of which were spread all over the neighbouring departments, and gave employment to a great quantity of persons, who, as well as a vast number of retail dealers, were entirely ruined by its failure. This event supplied the whole conversation of the coffee-rooms; for being debarred talking politics, the frequenters of these places catch with avidity at any thing that affords them an opportunity of setting their tongues in movement. I visited several of these rooms, and found that instead of coffee the decrees of Buonaparte had forced the substitution of sugar or sirup and water, a small glass of which costs two sous, while a cup of coffee costs twelve, and is consequently far above the pocket of the generality of the coffee-house loungers, whose chief inducement in frequenting these places is to kill time or save firing. For the former purpose, the rooms are furnished with chess

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and backgammon boards; and two persons will sit down to a party at trictrac for four hours, for a stake of two sous, or perhaps a bottle of four sous, which nobody but Frenchmen could swallow; and which, being little better than vinegar, is probably the predominating cause of the *maigreur* of the men, as the women, who drink only water, have in general quite sufficient *embonpoint*. A billiard table is also an invariable appendage to a French coffee-room, and during the day is never unemployed; but at night it is seldom occupied, from the expense of lighting it up.

On the first of April I quitted Orleans, and travelled on a very wide and well kept road, which evinced, as I proceeded, the approach to the capital, in the frequent towns, villages and châteaux. Few of the latter are however now occupied by their owners, who, as I have before observed,

served, generally prefer residing in Paris, and leave these noble seats in the charge of agents or farmers; while the still existing fear of their being reclaimed, prevents their spending any money in their repairs or embellishments. Such indeed is the general idea of the insecurity of the titles to confiscated property, that it sells for thirty per cent. less than patrimonial or church property. Many of the châteaux of the antient noblesse have also become the property of their servants, who, by the plunder of their masters, and the means of assignats, were enabled to purchase these mansions, which they have not funds to keep in repair.

I slept this night at the town of Etampes, and next morning (April 2) after passing through a highly cultivated country, arrived at Arpajon, near which are several deserted châteaux, particularly one formerly belonging to the Marshal de Castries. In this

this little town, as well as in every other between it and Paris, the traveller finds *tables d'hôte* at all hours, for the accommodation of passengers in the stages.

On entering the capital I preferred passing round by the Boulevards, to parading through the streets, and arrived opposite the palace of the Corps Législatif, formerly the Palais Bourbon, but which has been so altered and improved since my last visit to Paris, that I did not know it again. The front towards the bridge is now decorated with a rich and regular colonnade, with statues of Sully, Colbert, l'Hôpital and d'Aguesseau. The two grand doors are of solid mahogany with gilt stars, and the peristyles of white marble richly carved. Having gratified myself with a general view of the exterior of this edifice, I crossed the Pont Louis XVI. and entered the Place Louis XV. now Pont and Place de la Concorde. This bridge is the last in Paris towards Versailles, and though the

the river is not here wide enough to render it magnificent, is deserving of notice, for its simplicity and good taste. Passing along the Quai de la Conférence, I entered the Place de la Concorde, one of the finest in Paris, being a parallelogram of one hundred and twenty toises by eighty. On the side fronting the river are the magnificent edifices of the Hôtels de la Marine and de Courlande; on the right the gardens of the Thuilleries, and on the left the Champs-Elisées, of which the gardens command a view. The reflections that forced themselves on me in passing this place were not of the most cheerful kind, when I recollected that since I visited it before the revolution, the weak, but well meaning and unfortunate Louis had brought his head to the block, and here shed his own blood, because he would not permit the shedding of that of some of his subjects';

while

while crowds of his most faithful adherents had here also shared the same fate.

Being now arrived almost at the end of my long journey, over nearly the whole breadth of France, my readers will permit me to sum up the few general observations my mode of travelling permitted me to make, and which, though necessarily superficial, I trust will afford some information respecting the actual state of the country.

The very few equipages met with on the roads that could possibly be mistaken for gentlemen's, is the first great difference that strikes an Englishman between this country and his own. Except in the vicinity of the very large towns, a few single horse chaises, or covered carts, and an occasional creeping diligence, alone shew any symptom of communication between the different parts of the empire. The peasantry whom I have

have had occasion to converse with, universally complain of the conscription; of the requisition of their horses and carts, without payment, for the use of the army; of the billetting of soldiers, and of the heaviness of their taxes, in general; but particularly of those on wine, salt and tobacco. As a general proof of the poverty of the towns, may be adduced the very few houses building, or that have been built since the revolution.

In most of the towns I observed that the streets and places which underwent republican baptism, have resumed their antient names, except where they recall the remembrance of the unfortunate Bourbon family. Even the names derived from the religious orders have been restored, and the Rue des Augustins, des Capucins, &c. have again superseded those of Jean Jacques Rousseau and Voltaire. The antient names

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of streets are indeed a kind of historical records, and therefore should never be changed; for though no longer appropriate they carry us back to the time when they were, and afford a field of entertaining and instructive inquiry, both to the native and the foreigner. Such are in London, the White Friars, the Old Jewry, Lombard Street, and many others.

In the national character, the revolution seems to have made no perceptible alteration. The French are still what Voltaire describes them, a compound of the tiger and the monkey: under the monarchy, the sanguinary disposition was concealed by the mark of external politeness, and the monkey then predominated; the revolution opened an unbounded field to the exercise of natural cruelty, and the incessant wars in which their rulers have ever since kept them, have nourished and perfected that disposition.

disposition. Their wars, indeed, instead of being conducted on those principles of generosity, which the French in particular formerly prided themselves on, are wars of brigandage and extermination. That of Spain, in particular, presents a tissue of atrocities and wanton cruelties, that must render the name of a French soldier execrable to the latest posterity.

The scarcity of men forcibly strikes a stranger travelling in France. In villages of one hundred houses, I have never been able to count above half a dozen old men, and scarce a youth is to be seen in the country. The greatest share of field labour falls on the women, who, when they have infants, bandage them up like Egyptian mummies, and set them down in the corner of the field to squall their lungs away, while they follow the plough or turn up the ground with a spade. At the post houses

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the duty of the ostler is usually performed by females; and, as I have before observed, the attendants at the auberges are invariably strapping wenches, whose loquacity and familiarity are equally tiresome and obtrusive. That this scarcity of men is entirely owing to the waste of war, there cannot be the smallest doubt, when it is known for fact, that since the year 1793, thirty thousand conscripts have been raised for a single regiment.

CHAPTER XXXIV.

Paris .... Bains Chinoises .... Salon des Etrangers .... Thuilleries .... Fiacre .... Palace of Luxembourg .... Jardin des Plantes.

From the Place de la Concorde I proceeded to the Hôtel de Helder, rue de Helder, where I had directed my baggage; but finding the accommodations extremely bad, I again quitted it in search of better, and at last got comfortably suited at the Hôtel de Richelieu, in the same street.

Opposite the rue de Helder are the Bains Chinoises, or the Boulevard Italien, where, when before at Paris, I usually breakfasted; the cutlets and coffee being excellent, and served with the greatest attention by a very pretty bar maid. I had now the curiosity

osity to look in, and to my surprise found the identical damsel officiating exactly as I had seen her nine years before, and with much fewer marks of the all corroding power of time than I could have expected. She also immediately recognized me, and engaged me to pursue my former routine of tepid baths and breakfasts.

On my return to the hotel, I found several English gentlemen had called on me; by whose advice I proceeded to announce myself at the Etat Major of the Minister of War, and was introduced to Monsieur Plantin, the minister's secretary, who received me politely, and gave me no reason to suppose I should meet with any *désagrémens* in remaining at Paris, though I had no permission for that purpose. Thus, thinking myself secure, I looked out for a good house where I could dine, and recollecting the Salon des Etrangers, rue de Richelieu,

where I had formerly been member of a dinner club, I went thither: but soon discovered that it had much fallen off, the cookery being now entirely French. It had also become a regular gaming house, to which a certain number of members, all French, subscribed three louis a year; foreigners not being allowed to subscribe, though they might be introduced by one of the members. Every Saturday evening the proprietor, Monsieur Perrin, gives a splendid dinner to the subscribers and strangers, and there is besides a public supper every night. Two Commissaries do the honours of the table, and superintend the establishment. Amongst the constant frequenters pointed out to me was the Chevalier de Reul, a *bon vivant et bel esprit* of the old regime. Mons. Perrin is the farmer general of the gambling houses in France; and besides numerous establishments in Paris,

Paris, there is no watering place or public situation of great resort in which he has not a *salon de jeu*. For this monopoly he pays government six millions of francs a year, and is said to be rapidly making a fortune.

April 4. This morning I visited the Thuilleries, and found no alteration in the gardens, but the front towards the Louvre has been greatly improved. The celebrated bronze horses, which formerly ornamented the Place St. Marc at Venice, each on a separate pedestal, are here seen drawing a car of victory at the entrance of a triumphal arch, erected to the grand army. The car being empty has given rise to a pun, for, supposing it to be waiting for Napoleon, the wits say, "*le char l'attend!*"*

* *Le charlatan!*—the mountebank.

The Thuilleries, which derives its name from occupying a spot where tiles were formerly made, was founded by Catherine de Medicis in 1564, for her own residence, the King then occupying the Louvre. The Thuilleries was finished by Louis XIV. in 1634. Though a very magnificent edifice, and worthy of any capital, it is not without its faults, of which the most prominent is its complete exposure on every side. The terrace, in particular, has the appearance of a stage, intended to shew the persons on it to public view.

From the Thuilleries I visited the Louvre, the name of which has given rise to many etymological conjectures; among others, that it is derived from *Lupara*, as being a spot formerly celebrated for wolf hunting. This it appears was its name under Philip Augustus, who added several towers, surrounded it by a wide ditch, and converted

converted it into a fortress. Charles the Ninth began the grand gallery leading to the Thuilleries, and Henry the Fourth completed it. The external appearance is heavy and inelegant, but the alterations and additions that have been recently made evince taste and judgment, and have considerably improved it. The grand front is between eighty and ninety toises in length; along it is a range of columns of the Corinthian order, with a picture of Victory in a triumphal car, in bas relief; and another bas relief, representing Minerva placing the bust of Napoleon on a pedestal, on which the muse has just written, "*Napoleon le Grand a achevé le Louvre.*" Emblems of victory ornament other parts of the pedestal, and the Muses fill up the vacant spaces. The grand entrance is superb, and well worthy of the building. Along the gallery which leads to the Thuil-

leries are alternately placed an *N* and an eagle, as if Napoleon thought his subjects have not quite sufficient reasons to recollect him, without thus obtruding his initial on them in every corner.

I had only time to take a cursory view of the interior; but as far I could judge, the pictures and statues are extremely well arranged. To study them properly requires at least a month; and, had I remained at Paris, I should certainly have given a great portion of my time to them, and particularly to the historical subjects, as one of the surest ways of impressing the facts they represent on the mind. The busts of La Fontaine, d'Aguesseau, Rollin, Sully, Molière, Corneille, Descartes, Montesquieu, Fénélon, and Racine, placed in this great national repository, prove at least that the age of reason has again given way to the age of taste and good sense.

Having

Having several letters for the friends of officers whom I had met in Spain, I employed this morning in delivering them, and first waited on Madame de Coignée, mother-in-law of General Sebastiani, for whom I had one from her son, the General's aide-de-camp. Formerly a stranger in Paris was obliged to hire a job carriage by the day, week, or month, with a valet de place to go behind it; for to be seen walking in the streets was considered as superlatively shocking. On the contrary, at present, it is the mode to walk to a stand, and call a fiacre or cabriolet. These vehicles are far superior to the London hackney coaches, being always clean, and the drivers never thinking of extorting more than their regulated fare. Splendid private equipages are now, indeed, very scarce in Paris, for the foreigners are few, and the chief officers with the army; and

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as to the resident Parisians, they do not now run into this line of extravagance. A fashionable female was formerly seen in a curricle in the morning, and in a diligence in the evening; she went to the country in a tap-cul, to the theatre in a berlin, to a route in a chariot, to her creditors in a demi-fortune, and to her husband in a dormeuse, while the *élégante* of the present day is content on all occasions with an humble fiacre.

Understanding that Madame de Coignée was at her sister's, Madame de Conflans, faubourg St. Germain, I proceeded thither; but on my arrival, finding she had just quitted it, I drove back, and passing by the palace of the Luxembourg, observed little alteration in it, except that the magnificent buildings, which had formerly encroached on and disfigured it, had been removed. This palace was commenced by

Mary

Mary de Medicis, widow of Henry the Fourth, in 1615; at present it is destined to the meeting of the Senate. The Salle des Savans and the staircase leading to it are admirable. On the latter are the statues of Generals Kléber, Hoche, and Dessaix, and of the legislators Beauharnois, Mirabeau, Thouret, Condorcet, &c. The gardens still preserve their antient strait alleys, *jéts d'eau*, statues, &c.

On my second arrival at Madame de Coignée's, my inquiry if she was at home was avowed in the negative by the servant in English. On asking him why he answered me in that language, he replied, "Lord, Sir, I knew you directly to be an "Englishman; for let the French do what "they will, they can never look like *us*! "and though they try to ape *us* in every "thing, they can never succeed." The repetition of, and emphasis he laid on, the word

word *us*, induced me to examine him a little closer, and I observed he was a good jolly English coachman, whose present service had not divested him of his national contempt for the French. He shewed me General Sebastiani's hotel, where I found Madame de Coignée, and to whom I was introduced in the garden, where she was amusing herself with the General's amiable little daughter, about eight years old. Nothing could be more polite than Madame de Coignée's reception of me. She said her son had mentioned me so kindly in his letters, that she had longed to see me; "in "short," said she, "I was quite angry "with him, for instead of informing me "about himself and his proceedings in "Spain, his last letter of four pages was "taken up with you. I must, therefore, "expect that you will compensate his neg-"lect by giving me a faithful account of "him."

" him." She heard of his losses at play, and questioned me on the subject; but my answers were such as to quiet her fears, without committing myself or my friend. The house and gardens of General Sebastiani are amongst the most splendid in Paris; they have a fine view of the Champs Elisées, and a good deal of shade. On taking leave, I found the English coachman waiting to request me to visit the stables, with which I complied. Among the stud were four stallions, English, Arab, Spanish and Norman, each possessing the strongly marked character of his country. The groom was also English, and the appearance of the horses proved their superiority over the French. Indeed they were the only ones I had seen in real good order since my arrival in France.

I dined this day with an English party at Verres in the Thuilleries, where I unexpectedly

pectedly met Mr. Patterson, an old acquaintance, and an American, with whom I had visited Cadiz, Seville, and other parts of Spain, during the peace of Amiens.

After dinner we went to the opera; the piece was *Trajan*, which was now in the height of its run. L'Ainé was first singer, and Vestris the first dancer: Mesdames Branchard and Gredall were also excellent. Paris reckons four regular theatres, besides a vast number of places of entertainment. The regular theatres have each their separate line of performances, and collection of stock pieces, which are said to amount to two thousand one hundred and forty-two in the whole.* The

* The regular theatres may be thus classed: the Grand Opéra (Académie Royale de Musique); Théâtre François; Opéra Comique; Odéon. The minor theatres are, the Vaudeville; the Variétés; the Théâtre de la Gaieté; the Ambigu Comique; &c. &c. besides a variety of other exhibitions in almost every quarter of Paris.

The following morning I received an invitation from Messrs. Dennia, Pool, and others, to meet them at the Café Tortoni to breakfast. This coffee-house is the fashionable lounge of Paris, and is well situated for this purpose, being on the Boulevards, halfway between the Rue de Helder and Rue de Richelieu, which is a much frequented promenade, where a good deal of amusement may be derived from observing the different characters walking there. Though, doubtless, no pains are ever spared with their toilettes, yet there is very seldom a well dressed man among these loungers. One is seen with an enormous gold buckle in the front of his hat; another, with white topped boots and black breeches: nor among the whole did I observe more than one figure who might have passed for an English blood, had it not been for an enormous em-

broidered

broidered neck handkerchief, which did not at all coincide with his boots.

After breakfast I returned to my hotel, having promised to meet M. de Harcourt, whom I had formerly known in Holland, where he had been aide de camp to his uncle the General, when commanding the English army in the absence of the Duke of York. On entering I was informed that the myrmidons of the police had been inquiring after me, owing, as it appeared, to the landlord not having properly given in my name, rank, condition, &c.

Accompanied by Monsieur de Harcourt I visited the Jardin des Plantes, founded by Louis XIII. at the suggestion of Guy de la Bronze, his physician. It received considerable additions from the ministers Richelieu, Mazarine, and Colbert; but it is to the celebrated Buffon that it owes its present perfection. It contains also

also a Ménagerie, where every animal has a separate court to range in, and a house to retire to. We next visited the Cabinet d'Histoire Naturelle, the front of which looks into the Jardin des Plantes. The principal object that presents itself on entering is a marble statue of Buffon, to whom this collection, as well as the garden, is greatly indebted. The first range of apartments is occupied by the vegetable reign, and by the weapons, dresses, and utensils of the South Sea Islanders, Caraibs, and other savages. To these succeed the mineral reign, composed of ores of all kinds, &c. Then shells, corals, sponges, and other marine substances, and animals, amongst which is a fish, brought from Chandernagore, called rechardet, and esteemed a rarity. Foreign birds, with their eggs and nests, and insects, occupy other apartments. In a room,

containing various animal monstrosities, is a child with two heads, four arms, four legs and thighs, which is said to have lived a week. The most interesting objects in this collection are the skeletons of every species of animal described by Buffon, arranged in a gallery. To the cabinet is attached an extensive library, open to the public on Tuesdays and Fridays.

CHAPTER XXXV.

Paris....Palais Royal....Column of the Grand Army....Restaurateurs....Puppetshew..... French females....Triumphal arches....Pâtés de foie gras ....Salle de jeu....Comédie Françoise....Arrest ....Gend'armerie.

This morning I visited the Palais Royal, to make some purchases and lounge away an hour, for there is no place in Paris more proper for killing time. The circular row of buildings which constitute the Palace, was built by Cardinal Richelieu for his own residence in 1636, and was bequeathed by him to Louis XIII. Anne of Austria, wife of Louis XIV. inhabited it, and changed its name from Palais Cardinal to Palais Royal. On the death of Louis XIV. it devolved to the house of Orleans, in whose possession it remained until the infamous Egalité lost it and his head in the

revolution. During the reign of terror it received the name of Palais d'Egalité, but its antient denomination has been again restored to it.

At the extreme end of the palace are two elegant statues of Cicero and Demosthenes. The whole of this fine building is surrounded by a corinthian colonnade, with shops of all kinds, coffee-houses, traiteurs and restaurateurs, on the ground floor. The first story is composed of gambling rooms, and other places of dissipation. In the centre of the circle are tents or booths, with fanciful little gardens, where ices, lemonade, and other refreshments, according to the season, are sold.

From the Palais Royal I visited the Place Vendôme, in which is the Column of the Grand Army, erected in memory of the Austrian campaign of 1805. It is in imitation of Trajan's Pillar, one hundred and thirty-three feet high, including the pedestal

destal and the statue of Napoleon which crowns it: the latter is ten feet high, and weighs five thousand one hundred and twelve pounds. This monument is of cut stone, entirely covered with plates of bronze, representing in bas relief and in chronological order, the principal events of the campaign, from the departure of the troops from Boulogne to the battle of Austerlitz. The bronze is intirely the produce of the cannon taken from the Austrians. A staircase within the column leads up to a gallery, from which rises a little dome, surmounted by the statue of the Emperor. On one side of the pedestal is the following inscription:

*Napolio Imp. Aug. Monumentum belli Germanici, anno M.DCCC.V. trimestri spatio, ducto, suo, profligati, ex aere, capto, glorie exercitus, maximi dicavit.**

It

* Napoleon, the August Emperor, has consecrated

 to

It is not difficult to perceive in the inscription, that the monument has been rather erected to the ostentation of the general than to the courage of the army.

I dined this day at a restaurateur's, and had an excellent dinner. The plan of these houses is certainly far preferable to those of the generality of English eating-houses. On entering, a card is presented to you, on which are marked the various dishes with their prices, as well as those of the wines; so that every person may suit his own convenience, and know to a fraction what the expense of his dinner will be. The dinner hour is six o'clock, and though the room was crowded with parties, before seven it was

to the glory of the grand army, this column, composed of the cannon taken from the enemy, during the war in Germany, in 1805. A war, which, under his command, was terminated in three months.

was again completely empty; so short is the time that the French usually remain at table. As I had no appointment for the evening, I passed away a couple of hours at a puppetshew, and must do the French justice in avowing, that in this branch of the dramatic art they far excel us. The subject of the piece brought on this small theatre was the intrigues of a married couple, in the class of citizens; and from the pleasure the audience seemed to receive, I could have no doubt of the scenes being taken from real life. The general frailty of French women, indeed, justifies the satire of Pope,

"That every woman is at heart a rake."

Chastity, though it may be considered a desirable marriage portion among the higher orders in France, is by no means deemed indispensable to the happiness of

 wedlock;

wedlock; thus, the husband is generally pretty well satisfied that he is the father of his wife's first child, but has often too much reason to doubt his share in the rest; and even when he can have no doubt on the subject, he makes no complaint, but seems to reflect, that,

> La plainte est pour le fat; le bruit pour le sot;
> L'honnête homme trompé s'éloigne et ne dit mot.

A recent French writer, who acknowledges that the conduct of many wives is very mysterious, apologizes for them, by laying the blame on their husbands, who confide too implicitly in the male friends they permit to escort them to the promenade and to public places; the contradiction which the wife sometimes meets from her husband in the article of toilet expenses, he also considers as a sufficient excuse for her aberrations. "Nevertheless," continues

nues he, " to persecute a wife is always " odious, and whatever may be the private " conduct of either party, they should ne- " ver forget that they owe each other a " mutual forbearance. It often happens that " a couple, after having each led a most " libertine life, reform and renew their first " ties towards the end of the career, mu- " tually forgetting and forgiving their past " errors. A *sweet friendship* then forms " the charm of their declining age, and " they enjoy (though rather late) that do- " mestic happiness, the want of which no- " thing can compensate. Such persons " would have loved each other all their lives, " had they not sworn to do so at the altar."

One may safely presume this is a kind of domestic happiness, which few British husbands will envy, notwithstanding its *sweet friendship !*

It must not however be supposed that French women, above the common class, give

give themselves up to that degrading libertinism that confers favours on a multiplicity of lovers. Gallantry is in France a word of very different import from prostitution, signifying the tender preference of one amiable being at a time, besides the husband, and whatever lengths this attachment leads to, they are excused as the amiable weaknesses of sentiment and sensibility :—" thus," according to an eloquent and moral writer, " shame is mutu-
" ally communicated, and mutually pardon-
" ed, and levity joined to excess, forms a
" corruption at the same time deep and fri-
" volous, which laughs at every thing that
" it may blush at nothing."*

Indeed the mere absence of chastity does not in France, even among the middle class, carry with it that stigma which attaches to the want of it in England. A husband, for instance,

* *Essai sur les Caractères des Femmes.*

instance, of the respectable class of citizens *(bourgeois)* feels no repugnance at lodging in the same house with a notoriously kept mistress, nor does his wife see any indecorum in conversing with her familiarly when they happen to meet. The same disregard to the virtue of their female servant is observed in the *bourgeois* mistresses. If a maid shews by outward and visible signs that she has no longer a right to that honourable title, her mistress, instead of turning her out of doors for a "strumpet as "she is," consoles, encourages, and instructs her in making the necessary preparations for the event. A few days before she expects its arrival, she procures a substitute to do her work, retires to the house of a *sage femme*, and in thirty-six hours after the delivery of her burden returns to her place, and is as well received as if she were as chaste as Diana. The child is either put

put into the asylum of *les Enfans trouvés*, or sent out to nurse with a peasant.

Next morning I rode in the Champs-Elisées, Bois de Boulogne, and the Place d'Etoile. In the latter a triumphal arch has been lately erected on the marriage of the Emperor. Indeed these kind of temporary monuments strike the eye in every quarter of Paris and its environs; and though in general they are very trifling things, yet they are supposed to prove *la bonne volonté de la bonne ville de Paris*, and at least gratify the vanity of Napoleon.

Having accepted an invitation to dine at the Salon des Etrangers, I met there several of the ministers of state, and a number of members of the higher classes of the Legion of Honour. The dinner was in the first stile, and among the luxuries were *pâtés de foie gras*, a dish fit for Heliogabalus himself. It is composed of the livers of geese, and

and truffles. In order to prepare the liver, the poor goose is crammed for a certain time until it becomes immensely fat; its feet are then fastened to the ground, close to a very hot stove, which produces a violent thirst, and it is supplied with as much water as it will drink; the effect of this cruel treatment is, that the whole fat of the body concentrates in the liver, which swells to an enormous size, while the body is emaciated to a skeleton. Lest the bird should die before the completion of the business, it is said that a physician is employed, and allowed a handsome salary to attend these operations. Although I must acknowledge that these *pâtés* are exquisite, I should have no objection to see the inventors and manufacturers of them brought under the lash of those worthy members of society whose study is the prevention of cruelty to animals.

After dinner the company retired up stairs to

to coffee and liqueur, from which I went into the Salon de Jeu, where in a very short time I lost three hundred louis at Rouge et Noir. The Chevalier de Reul, whom I have before mentioned as one of the constant frequenters of the house, then called me aside, and advised me to risk no more, but to accompany him to the Comédie Françoise, where he promised to introduce me to the first performers; with all of whom he was intimate, and particularly the females, among whom it is a kind of prescriptive necessity to pay the Chevalier a visit previous to their *début*, in order to secure his powerful aid towards their success, as well as to get into society. I gladly accepted the gallant Chevalier's offer; but in passing through the hazard room I could not resist temptation, particularly as the manner of playing was novel to me. The bank covers any sum the caster lays down, and mostly in

in silver, while the players usually stake gold, being less cumbersome. The difference, which is seven sous in the single, and sixteen in the double louis, forms no small portion of the gain of the bank. I was here more fortunate than at Rouge et Noir, winning two hundred louis in a few minutes, with which I contented myself, and accompanied the Chevalier in his carriage to the theatre, where, according to his promise, he introduced me behind the scenes to several of the performers. One of the females, conspicuous for her beauty, and well known in the annals of gallantry, accompanied me into the stage box, on which she drew the eyes of the whole audience. After the performance, the Chevalier conducted me to a restaurateur's, where he had invited this actress and two others to partake of an elegant supper, with which, accompanied by delightful singing

and

and sprightly conversation, the night insensibly glided away, and we did not separate till three o'clock.

The pleasures of the day were of a nature to make me wish for their repetition, and I promised myself to dine every day at the Salon des Etrangers; to go to the Comédie Françoise every evening; and to sup with agreeable actresses every night. But all these charming prospects vanished in a moment, "like the baseless fabric of a "vision." I had not even time to dream of them, when a violent knocking at my door announced a most unwelcome visitor from the Adjutant de Place, with a guard to arrest and conduct me before the General commanding in Paris. The Adjutant entered my room with two of his myrmidons, and demanded, with all the insolent airs of office, "what brought me to, and "what detained me at Paris?" adding, "that

" that if I could not give a good account " of myself to the General I must expect " the most serious consequences." While I was huddling on my clothes, he exclaimed every moment, "*Allons, f—, ce n'est pas le " temps de faire la toilette !*" I was therefore obliged to march off with my coat and waistcoat on my arm, and to tie my neck-cloth in the street, through which I was hurried by these ruffians as if I had been a criminal. They first conducted me to the hotel of Comte Hulin, the Governor of Paris, who ordered me to be transferred to the office of his Etat Major, there to be strictly examined, and a report made to him. The questions put to me were of such a nature, that it might have appeared they suspected me of some heinous plot against the State. At first their language was most menacing and imperious; but finding I would confess nothing, having indeed

nothing to confess, their tone softened; particularly when I told them that, though a stranger, I was not without friends of the first respectability at Paris, and mentioned among others Madame de Coignée. These names caused the Adjutant de Place, who was my principal examiner, to reflect how he treated me; and as he gave me the materials for writing, with permission to address whom I chose, I sent a note to Madame de Coignée and some other friends. I soon after received a visit from Sir John Coghill, who immediately went to speak to the Duke de Rovigo, Minister of Police. While I was in momentary expectation of being ordered to occupy an apartment in the Temple, I was visited by Lieutenant Owen, of the Royal Navy, who had also called on me twice the preceding day. This gentleman had been arrested at one of the depots of prisoners,

on

on a charge of having been engaged in a plot with some Swiss officers, to corrupt the Swiss garrison of Belle-Isle, to give up that island to the English; a plot certainly as ridiculous in all its parts as ever entered into the head of Don Quixote. Mr. Owen was now under the close inspection of the Police, being permitted to absent himself from his lodgings only a couple of hours in the day. His visits to me were to ask my advice how he was to act in these circumstances, but I declined entering at all into the subject, and moreover begged him to discontinue his visits, which, without being of any utility to him, might have very unpleasant consequences to me. On his retiring, I asked the Adjutant if he knew him, to which he answered, "*Oh "qu'oui! et vous le connoissez aussi, par-"bleu!*" It now struck me that his visits were the cause of my being arrested, and

I observed to the Adjutant that surely it could not for a moment be supposed that I had any thing to do with the absurd plot of which Mr. Owen was suspected; adding, that the French government lowered itself in paying attention to so ridiculous a story. " Perhaps, Sir," I added, " you " do not recollect, that in 1761 the cap- " ture of Belle-Isle by the English was " only effected by a large fleet and army, " commanded by three admirals and seve- " ral generals; and you fear that it may " now be taken by such a detachment as " is usually commanded by a lieutenant; " for, if I have been correctly informed, " it appears that Mr. Owen proposed him- " self to command the expedition." These observations seemed to make some impression, and the Adjutant became more civil, informing me that I ought not to consider him as the cause of my arrest, for that my

name

name had been some time in the books of the police, and that I had left Spain with a recommendation to be well looked after. I immediately recollected General Beliard's letter to General Sols at Bayonne, and had no doubt but he had sent a similar one to Paris. But though the Adjutant became more civil in his manner, he could not help expressing his fears of my attempting to escape even from this place; and when I once, in walking up and down the room, approached the door, he cried out, "*gardez "bien ce Monsieur-là;*" and I was prevented from again going near the door. While I remained in this state of suspense, I was not long without finding something to amuse and interest me, in the various persons who, like myself, were brought hither *malgré eux.* Among them was a refractory conscript, accompanied by his disconsolate parents, who threw themselves at the feet

of the Adjutant, imploring for their son. The unfeeling brute first grossly abused them, as the instigators of their son's crime, and assured them that he would either be shot, or inevitably sent to the galleys for life, and that he had only to thank their evil councils for his fate. It appeared that this lad was an only son, who had learned a trade, and having escaped the first drawing of the conscription, had set up in business, and with the produce of his industry supported his aged parents. A supplementary conscription being called for the same year, he hoped to escape the drawing by concealing himself till it was over; but he was discovered in his place of refuge, and now brought before the military authority, for having endeavoured to evade the conscription laws. The Adjutant, however, seemed to be softened by the tears of the parents, and concluded by ordering the lad

out

out with one of his myrmidons, most probably to receive all the money the poor people could raise, as the price of not bringing him to punishment, while the lad himself was as certainly sent off instantly to join a regiment.

To these poor people succeeded a decent looking woman, inquiring after her husband, who, according to her story, belonged to the national guard, and had gone out the evening before, and had not been heard of since. The only answer she received was desiring her to go to the Place de Grêve, where she would probably find him; and with this consolatory advice she retired in tears. The Place de Grêve, the place of public execution, is near la Morgue, where all the dead bodies, picked up in the streets during the night, or taken out of the river, are exposed to be recognized by their friends. The num-

ber of violent deaths in Paris is very great, and increases daily, from the increased frequency of suicides and murders.

Although I assumed an air of indifference, I could not help being disturbed at my situation; nor was I quite at ease with respect to the result, having no sort of wish to occupy poor Captain Wright's apartment in the Temple. Madame de Coignée, and some other friends, having interested themselves for me, the affair terminated with ordering me to be escorted to Verdun by a *gend'arme*. One being immediately appointed for this service, he first conducted me to the Temple, whose gates I did not enter without a kind of chill, from reflecting on the horrors that had been committed within them. The purpose of bringing me here was, however, only to arrange with the colonel of *gend'armerie* the sum I was to pay to my guard, which he

he fixed at twelve francs a day, with the obligation that he was to dine and sleep in the same room with me.

The corps of *gend'armerie*, composing the civil and military police of France, is nearly on the footing of the ancient *maréchaussée*. It consists chiefly of cavalry, though a small number are infantry; and the men are all picked from different regiments of the line, being such as can read and write, as that is required. Their duty is to patrole the country, either on horseback or on foot; to arrest deserters from the army, refractory conscripts, and all persons not having regular passports; and to assist the civil magistrates in the execution of their warrants, in all cases of correctional or criminal police.

From the idea I had received of the police of Paris, I expected to have found it crowded with *gend'armes*; and was, therefore,

fore, not a little surprised to learn that there were only fifteen cavalry and twenty-five infantry constantly stationed there. In all the surrounding villages are brigades of five, who keep up a daily correspondence with the colonel in chief in the capital. In the same manner detachments are stationed in every town of any consideration throughout the empire.

CHAPTER XXXVI.

From Paris to Verdun..... Porte St. Martin ....
Meaux..... La Ferté....Château of Etage.....
Chalons .... French seminaries of education ....
St. Menehoud ...Clermont....Arrival at Verdun.

EARLY on the morning of the 8th of April I quitted Paris on horseback, with my *gend'arme;* and as I had long found that no situation was so desperate as to be without some advantage, I endeavoured to render him useful, by questioning him respecting the country.

We passed through the Porte St. Martin, one of the finest entrances to Paris, built by Louis XIV. in 1674. It is composed of three arches, ornamented with four bas reliefs, representing the taking of Besançon,

çon, the rupture of the Triple Alliance, the surrender of Limburg, and the defeat of the Austrian army by Louis XIV, under the figure of Hercules, with his club, repulsing an eagle.

Immediately outside of the gate we came to the fine canal of l'Ourcq; the country was enchanting, and the weather superb. After refreshing the horses at the village of Claye, we arrived in the evening at the handsome town of Meaux on the Marne, the capital of the ci-devant Brie, celebrated for the elegant spire of its principal church, for being the first town that opened its gates to Henry IV., and for its excellent cheeses. The road from Paris hither was lined with seemingly deserted châteaux.

April 9. After some hours ride through a country, finely diversified with hills and levels, and with abundance of wood and water,

water, we reached La Ferté sous Jouarre, a small town, in the vicinity of which are immense quarries, on the side of a hill, which supply a great part of France with millstones, and are of so superior a quality, that they formerly found their way to Germany, Holland, and even England. We slept this night at the village of Vieux-Maisons, where I began to reconcile myself to the company of my *gend'arme* at supper, and to his sleeping in a bed in the same room, as all remonstrance I knew would be useless. Indeed he was superior to the generality of his brethren, and by no means deficient in education or intelligence; so that his company, which was intended as a punishment, became rather a pleasure.

April 10. We pursued our journey this day through a dreary country, and by a very bad bye road, having quitted the high-

way

way for some reason which I could not learn, and arrived at the miserable village of Etage, close to which we visited a very fine château, lately the property of Marshal Lasnes, but now of a Monsieur Genova. It formerly belonged to Monsieur Charmilly, first valet de chambre to Louis XVI., and who fell a victim to his attachment for his master. It has handsome gardens, beautifully situated woods, and some waterfalls. In one of the apartments are the pictures of its successive possessors; amongst whom was the Comte Langlum, who sold the demesne, with ninety-nine villages attached to it, to raise a sum for his ransom, when made prisoner by the Turks.

April 11. Our journey this day lay through Champagne, part of which province is called *Pouilleuse*, on account of the quantity of barren land it contains. In the

the evening we arrived at Chalons, and found comfortable accommodation at the little inn called the Ville de Metz. Chalons is an ancient and considerable town on the banks of the Marne, which bathes a part of its walls. It is mostly ill built, many of its houses being of wood, and the streets in general narrow. It has, nevertheless, some buildings worthy of notice; amongst which are the cathedral, constructed in the thirteenth century, in the Arab-gothic stile of architecture. The hotel of the prefecture is a handsome modern stone edifice. The Hôtel de Ville is also modern, and its grand façade and hall of audience are of the Corinthian order. The promenade, called the Jard, is considered one of the finest in France. The population of the town is about twelve thousand. It is celebrated for two great battles fought near it; the first in which Aurelian defeat-

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ed Tacitus, his competitor for the empire, and the second in which Attila and his allies were defeated and dispersed by the Romans, the French, and Goths, in 451. Chalons has a public library of thirty thousand volumes, and an imperial school of arts and trades, in which are four hundred and fifty scholars, nominated by the Emperor, educated at the expense of the state, and chosen chiefly from the sons of the military.

It must be acknowledged, that France excels every country in the world in the institutions for public and gratuitous education. Primary and secondary schools are established in every commune, under the inspection of the civil magistrates, and partly supported by government. In the first, children learn reading, writing, and arithmetic; and in the second, they are taught the learned languages, and the elements

ments of the sciences. To these first seminaries succeed the lyceums (also partly endowed by government, and which supply the place of the ancient colleges), one of which is established in every two or three departments; and to each is attached a library, a botanic garden, and a cabinet of natural history. The two latter cannot fail of being of infinite utility to the students, who have thus before their eyes all the productions of nature, the reading of which subjects, even when assisted by plates, can give but an imperfect idea.

From the lyceums those who are destined for the public service, or the learned professions, enter into the special schools, of which there are several in different parts of the empire, and in which the range of instruction is much more extensive than in our universities, embracing every branch both of the useful and elegant arts

and sciences, natural history, painting, sculpture, architecture in all its branches, music, medicine, law, the veterinary science, &c. all have their respective places. Besides these are numerous military and marine establishments, for the education of young men destined for those professions. Even the art of swimming has become a branch of public education. Corporal chastisement is strictly prohibited in the schools; and all the scholars are obliged to wear an uniform, accompanied with a cocked hat, and to learn the manual exercise; by which means it is doubtless intended to familiarize them to the idea of becoming soldiers, and to blunt their feelings when they fall into the conscription.

But though public instruction seems to be so well organized in France, yet by no means must it be inferred that the diffusion of general knowledge is prevalent even amongst

amongst the upper class; in fact, though many Frenchmen have reached the highest point of science and literature, the number of those who may with propriety be called well informed is extremely small, while the truly ignorant are very numerous. The cause seems to be in the multifarious sciences which form the routine of the schools, and of which it is impossible to acquire more than a very superficial knowledge during the period of education; and after leaving school, not one Frenchman in a thousand ever thinks of reading for any other instruction than that necessary to his profession or business. In geography and general history in particular, the ignorance of Frenchmen in the respectable class of society often forces a smile. I was once in company with several, from whose rank in life might have been expected, at least, that general knowledge which is attendant

on a liberal education; an English officer, who had sailed round the world, was also of the party. After a thousand questions respecting the countries he had seen, one gentleman asked him, if New Holland was not a port of North America? while another desired to know what he thought of the naval arsenal at Toulon? On his replying that he had never been in the Mediterranean, the Frenchman, with a look of sagacity, exclaimed, "*Mais, Monsieur, "vous n'avez pas donc fait le tour du "monde!*" Something similar was the idea of a midshipman, who insisted that the Bible was all a romance, for that had there been a Red Sea, so often spoken of in it, he must have seen it in his voyage round the world with Lord Anson.

Besides the seminaries of education I have mentioned, there is in every bishopric a school for the education of youth for the church;

church; but as theology has since the revolution been a study that promises neither much reputation nor profit, these seminaries were almost entirely abandoned; and if government had not lately taken measures to provide a succession of priests, the next generation would have presented the appearance of the patriarchal ages, when every father acted as priest in his own family. The paltry salaries of the clergy prevent the middling or higher classes from destining their children for the profession. The government has lately formed establishments for the education of the sons of inferior citizens and others for the church. At the expiration of the term of their studies, if they find they have not employment, they have no alternative but to become soldiers; government determining not to be at the expense of their education, without being remunerated one way or other.

The annual salary of the archbishops is but fifteen thousand francs; of bishops ten thousand; of cures, or beneficed clergymen, from fifteen hundred to a thousand, and of the other priests but five hundred. The heads of the church have, however, in general, sinecure places in the court of Napoleon, and the inferior clergy augment their revenue by the fees on burials, marriages, and baptisms. Three great sources of the former revenues of the clergy are, however, nearly annihilated: confession has almost entirely fallen into disuse, or at the utmost, a general annual confession is deemed sufficient. Purgatory, that bugbear of the Catholic world for so many ages, has almost totally lost its influence on the minds of the people of France; and thus a second fertile source of riches to the clergy, in the celebration of masses for the dead, is al-

most

most entirely dried up. Lastly, the great majority of the enlightened French pay very little attention to the rules of their religion respecting fast days, and hence the sale of indulgences is much reduced.

With respect to the seminaries of female education in the provinces, they have been in general extremely bad since the revolution, the suppression of the convents having created a long void in this object. At present, boarding schools are becoming more numerous, and there are likewise many establishments for the education of girls, formed under the direction of several orders of *religieuses*, authorized by the government: particularly the "Dames de la Congrégation de "Notre Dame," and the "Dames de la "Congrégation des Nouvelles Catholiques."

April 12. Pursuing our journey from Chalons, we were obliged to stop at a mi-

serable village, the *gend'arme* declaring his horse unable to proceed; but, in fact, his object was to get another day's pay, by retarding our arrival at Verdun.

The following day (April 13) I halted awhile at St. Menehould, a small town of three thousand inhabitants, situated in a marsh, between two rocks. Here the Prussians were defeated by the Carmagnoles in 1792, which may be said to have sealed the destinies of France and of Europe, at least for a time; for the defeat of a regular army, which, according to the Duke of Brunswick's manifesto, was to march to Paris, inspired such confidence into the armed mob of France, that nothing could afterwards resist them.

St. Menehould is also famous for the sieges it stood in 1048, 1089, 1436, 1560, and 1614. Hither retreated the Prince de Condé,

Condé, the Duke de Bouillon, and Prince de Nevers. In 1616, it was taken by the Marquis de Praslin; in 1652, by the Spaniards, and the next year retaken by Louis XIV. in person. The walls which surrounded it have been levelled, and it is now entirely open.

The country from St. Menehould to Clermont is diversified by romantic hills and vallies, well wooded, watered and cultivated, and with extensive cherry and plum orchards. Near Clermont, my *gend'arme* pointed out the position, on a commanding eminence, occupied by Arthur Dillon's army. Clermont is most romantically situated at the foot of a rocky eminence, rising from an extensive plain. The remains of fortifications are seen on the summit, and as three sides present a perpendicular face of 60 to 80 feet high, it must have been an extremely strong post. At one of the extremities

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of this hill is an artificial mound, where the republicans used to repair, to celebrate their civic marriages and take the civic oath.

April 14. I quitted Clermont for Verdun, with something like the apprehensions of a boy, on his first going to school, being unacquainted with the nature of a dépôt, and having heard no favourable account of the treatment of the prisoners. On entering the town I was conducted to the citadel, and before the commandant, a Colonel Courcelle, whose appearance was not calculated to do away the unfavourable account I had heard of him. A red woollen cap, and a grey frieze jacket and pantaloons, constituted his dress, and he filled the room with a cloud of smoke from a great pipe. He was however civil, and when the clerks had, according to the Verdun expression, "drawn my picture," that is,

is, taken down my description, size, the place of my birth, and my father and mother's names, and having signed a parole not to quit the town without permission, I was allowed to retire at perfect liberty.

CHAPTER XXXVII.

Verdun....Sketch of its history....Situation....Regulations of the dépôt....Exaction of the commandants, &c....Different classes of English....Manner of living.

My readers will not expect a minute history of Verdun, which, were I to compile it from the archives, would make a large volume, and after all be neither amusing nor instructive. As however it will long be remembered by many an Englishman who has languished for years within its walls, suffering that worst of misery, "hope deferred," a rapid glance over its annals may not be uninteresting. Before the incursion of Attila, Verdun was one of the principal towns of Belgic Gaul; but in the universal de-

vastation that accompanied the progress of that scourge of God and his followers, it was so reduced, that in the middle of the fifth century, it was only an insignificant castle. Again gradually rising, in 502 it was taken by Clovis, and soon after became part of the kingdom of Austrasia; but was governed by its own Counts, till 977, when the reigning chief granted it to the Bishop of Verdun and his successors, which grant was confirmed by the Emperor Otho.

The bishops governed the city and its territory by their viscounts, but the latter often usurped the supreme power, and several times in the eleventh and twelfth centuries besieged the bishops in the town and burnt it. From the middle of the thirteenth to the end of the sixteenth century, it was governed by its own magistrates independent of any other authority, and generally enjoyed tranquillity. By the treaty of Vienna,

enna, in 1745, the Duchy of Lorraine being annexed to the crown of France, Verdun and its territory received the same form of government as the rest of the kingdom.

The town is situated nearly in the centre of an oblong valley surrounded on every side by hills, which taking a direction between north west and south west, afford a bed to the Meuse, whose course is here extremely tortuous. The citadel and part of the town stand on the summit and declivity of a rocky eminence on the west bank of the river, and the rest of the town on several islands in it; so that it is divided into the upper and lower town. When France was circumscribed within more narrow bounds, Verdun, as a frontier town, was of considerable importance, but since the fortune of Buonaparte has extended the empire to the banks of the Rhine, and reduced

reduced the princes beyond it to a state of vassalage, it is no longer deemed of any consequence ; the works are allowed to go to ruin and are dismantled of artillery. The ramparts which surround the town are about three miles in circuit, with regular outworks, and being planted with trees afford a pleasant promenade. The citadel on the summit of a rock was finished under the direction of Marshal Vauban, but is commanded by the neighbouring hills, from one of which the Prussians bombarded it, in 1792, and in a few days obliged it to surrender. The governor put an end to himself, well knowing that the guillotine would otherwise have done so, and his death has afforded a subject for one of the best modern French tragedies.

At the revolution Verdun contained eighteen religious communities, whose revenues

venues amounted to two millions and a half of livres. The whole of the conventional buildings have been either pulled down for the materials, or converted into magazines, hospitals, &c. The episcopal palace, situated on the margin of the rocky elevation before mentioned, is an extensive but plain edifice, now granted to a senator. The cathedral is a very handsome gothic pile, and had formerly four square towers, but two of them have been destroyed by lightning. With respect to commerce, Verdun is celebrated for its dragées, comfits and liqueurs; the former even constituted one of the luxuries of the seraglio of Constantinople, and of the imperial palace of Petersburg. The decrees of Buonaparte, which have raised the price of sugar to six francs the pound, have decreased the manufacture of these objects three-fourths.

A few

A few manufactories of coarse felt hats, and some tanneries, are the other trading speculations of the town.

Having now reached the place of my final destination, I shall quit the journal form, and present the reader with such observations as occur to me, without regard to the order of time. The first that naturally presents itself relates to the situation of the prisoners. As the dépôt is solely appropriated to those on parole, each has a passport which permits him to walk or ride in every direction, two leagues from the town, between the opening of the gates at daylight and their shutting at dark. Field officers and naval captains sign a public register once a month; all other commissioned officers every fifth day, and every other prisoner (except by particular indulgence) every day. All general convivial meetings of the prisoners must be sanc-

tioned by the commandant; and as this has never been refused, the anniversary of his Majesty's birth, and of St. Patrick, have been always celebrated at Verdun, with as much loyalty and devotion as in the capital of the British kingdom.

Sometime after my arrival Monsieur Courcelles was superseded in the command of the dépôt, in consequence of the complaints of the prisoners, particularly the midshipmen, who (without the slightest cause, except his villainous caprice,) he confined in the citadel, where they were subject to every kind of ill treatment and extortion. As a new system commenced with the arrival of the new commandant, my readers will not be displeased at an endeavour to paint the old system, as it was described to me by persons resident in the dépôt since its first establishment.

The first commandant was a General Roussel,

Roussel, who treated the prisoners in the best manner; but in a few months he was replaced by General Wirion, as great a rogue as the revolution has produced. Under him every thing was venal, and the prisoners of all ranks were plundered, both by himself and his underlings, in every possible manner. From those whom he knew possessed fortunes, he extorted immense sums, as the price of the indulgences he granted them, or of refraining from sending them to Bitche, which he had the power to do without assigning any cause; and more than once a number of the most quiet persons in the dépôt have been dragged from their beds and marched off to that infernal cavern, without having the slightest knowledge of the reason; and many of them, after suffering two years of the most complicated misery in its dungeons, when they returned to Verdun were still quite ignorant of the mo-

tives of their arrest. One instance will be sufficient to give an idea of General Wirion's character :—a number of the English of good fortune frequently invited him to dinner, and allowed him to win their money, as a certain way of keeping on good terms with him ; one of these gentlemen however had offended unknowingly, and Wirion destined him to Bitche ; but receiving an invitation to dine with him, he accepted it, and appeared to be on the very best terms with his host. He was not a little astonished to find, when the General retired towards the morning, two *gend'armes* enter, and tell him that he had only till daylight to prepare himself to march for that place.

The system of extortion of the lieutenant of *gend'armes*, who was second in command, and of the non-commissioned officers of that corps, was regularly organized.. At this time every prisoner without distinction

was

was obliged to sign twice a day; and by another regulation of the General's, if they neglected to do so, they were obliged to pay three francs to the *gend'arme* who went to visit them. It was soon found that this measure brought in but little, as none but persons of fortune could afford to pay a crown a day for the liberty of sleeping in the morning and riding out in the afternoon. Hence the system was changed, and for six or twelve francs a month, a tacit permission was granted to forget these frequent signatures.

The masters of merchantmen, by far the greater number of whom were in a state of the greatest distress, did not escape the grasp of these harpies; by the regulations they were obliged to live ten in a house, to be mutually responsible for each other, body for body, and besides were mustered twice a day. In order to be freed from the effects of these

regulations, which deprived them of all comfort, they were forced to pay the *gend'armes* whatever they could scrape together. Besides this open and general system, the *gend'armes* had another efficient method of raising contributions, by lotteries for horses, watches, trinkets, &c. that often had no existence; or if they had, it made no difference, the winner being well assured that the consequence of insisting on receiving the object would be a visit to Bitche, as was experienced by a gentleman who won a horse in this manner from the lieutenant of *gend'armerie*, and did not choose to say, as half a dozen others did, who had won the same animal at different times: "*Monsieur*, "*je vous prie de le garder, comme un sou-*"*venir de l'amitié!*"

During the administration of Berthier, as minister of war, the complaints made by

by the prisoners of the conduct of Wirion, were not paid the smallest attention to, Wirion being one of his *protégés*, and not taking an active part in forwarding these complaints. Sir T. Lavie, the senior naval officer, was dragged out of his bed, and hurried off to the fortress of Montmedy, where he was kept close confined, as a state prisoner, for some months, and not allowed the use of paper, pen or ink. On General Clerke's being appointed to the head of the war department, the prisoners renewed their complaints against Wirion, who was now called on to explain his conduct; for which purpose he went from the dépôt to Paris, but his explanation not exculpating him, it is supposed that a public inquiry was ordered, to avoid which he became his own executioner by blowing his brains out in the Bois de Boulogne; while the lieutenant of *gend'armerie*, who so well seconded him in

his system of extortion, was reduced to the ranks.

Wirion was succeeded in the command of the dépôt by Monsieur Courcelles, a colonel, who before held the situation of commandant de place; as great a villain as Wirion, but taught by his example to avoid the rock on which he split. The open system of extortion now ceased, and he contented himself with what could be picked up by underhanded means. The first of which was in the monthly payment of the prisoners, in which an abuse had existed from the commencement of the dépôt, without having been noticed, or at least complained of. Instead of paying in *francs*, the prisoners were paid in *livres tournois*, by which the persons who paid the money put one and a quarter, or more, per cent. into their own pocket; eighty francs being equal to eighty-one livres, which amounted

to

to above fifteen louis a month. Besides the old perquisite, which Courcelles continued, he struck out a new source of extortion, which fell almost entirely on the midshipmen. On pretence of some desertions among this class, he caused the whole of them to be arrested and closely confined in an old convent of the citadel; here they were obliged to pay thirty sous a month each, for the lights kept burning by their guards, besides being charged most enormously for every dilapidation: and the whole produce of both these taxes went into the pocket of Courcelles and his *affidés;* for the lights were allowed by the government, and the dilapidations were never made good. Upon a moderate average, these two objects produced twenty louis a month. But the third and grand speculation was the wine. Courcelles having a vineyard near Verdun which produced a *vin de pays,* worth

worth about six sous the bottle, he obliged the persons confined in the citadel to purchase the wine at fifteen sous, from his natural son, whom he had appointed turnkey at one of the dungeons. From an accurate calculation, the profits arising from this monopoly amounted to forty-five louis a month, making in the whole eighty louis. But independent of these extortions, the midshipmen were treated with the most brutal inhumanity, and on the slightest murmur were thrown into a dungeon called the "Tour d'Angoulême," being a round tower, with but two apartments, in which the Duc d'Angoulême had been confined.

At length the midshipmen seeing no prospect of any remission of their sufferings, detailed them in a letter to the minister of war, which produced an inquiry into the conduct of Courcelles, and though he had been too cautious to allow any proof of

of his sharing in the plunder to be brought home to him, and threw the whole burthen on the shoulders of the lieutenant of *gend'armerie*, his conduct was evidently disapproved of by his being immediately removed, both from the command of the dépôt, and from the situation of commandant de place. With respect to his catspaw, the lieutenant of *gend'armerie*, he followed Wirion's example, giving himself a quietus with a pistol on the glacis.

The prisoners who formed the dépôt were, at the commencement, distinguished into two classes, *viz.* détenus or hostages and prisoners of war. Among the former were many respectable families, who were travelling peaceably on the supposed sacredness of the laws of nations, when they were suddenly arrested and rigorously confined; but there were also some among this class, who having given the King's-Bench the slip, came

to

men were completely ruined, it being supposed that while it continued, £50,000 were lost by the prisoners every year. It was at last shut up, in consequence of general regulations limiting the number of the licenced gambling houses. We need scarce remark, that a nation must be very far gone in corruption, whose government openly sanctions one of the most destructive of vices, in order to increase its revenue. A recent French writer, in describing the gambling societies of Paris, says, "that the "intention of government, in authorizing "public gaming houses, is to hinder the "national gamblers from transporting "themselves and money to foreign coun- "tries, as well as to attract foreign gam- "blers into their own." The same reasons may, with equal justice, be adduced in favour of licensing brothels, and houses to receive

receive stolen goods, from both of which considerable revenues might be raised.

It is not surprising that amongst the variety of characters brought into contact at Verdun, there should be frequent disputes, and that many duels should be the consequence, by which several young men have lost their lives, who, had they been spared, might have been ornaments to their professions.

CHAPTER XXXVIII.

Verdun....Situation of the prisoners in the dépôts.... Seizure of my papers....Arrest and confinement ....Sketch of Bitche.

As soon as I had got fixed at Verdun, and had time to look round me, my first object was to inquire into the situation of the soldiers confined in the dépôts, which I found extremely distressing, both from want of clothing and from scanty nourishment. As senior officer, I felt it my duty to represent their sufferings to the government, which immediately empowered me to draw for and pay them the moiety of their pay, besides an allowance for clothing; the result of which was, that these poor fellows have since enjoyed comforts they never knew before. The inducements

ments to desertions have been entirely done away, and many valuable lives have been saved, by the comforts of warm clothing and good food during the inclemency of winter. The corresponding with the several dépôts, and the necessary regulations I was obliged to form for supplying the prisoners, were sufficient fully to occupy me; but from the situation I was placed in, I was every day addressed by foreigners, who, though not actually in the British service, had been made prisoners, fighting in the general cause; all of whom were relieved as far as propriety would admit. The general measures I adopted in every instance, I feel happy in being able to say, have been approved by the government; and though captivity is incalculably injurious to my own interest, I feel the counterbalancing satisfaction of knowing that I have left nothing undone to render it supportable to

my fellow prisoners; and the still greater pleasure of observing, that I have succeeded farther than I could have hoped, from the situation of the dépôts on my first arrival.

I was not, however, long allowed to enjoy the tranquillity I hoped for; jealousy and suspicion, the constant companions of weak governments as well as of little minds, soon became fixed on me, and at seven o'clock one morning my house was surrounded by guards, and every avenue of escape secured. A general officer, commanding the department, then entered my bed room, in which I was dressing, and addressing me very politely, informed me, "his Majesty had received certain infor-" mation of my being in possession of pa-" pers of consequence, which he was or-" dered to seize, and forward to Paris." In consequence, my writing-desk, &c. were soon emptied, and the whole of the

private

private letters and manuscripts they found, were carried off to be examined. Among other papers of equally little importance, were some drawings of the country, and a few rough sketches of imaginary fortifications. At sight of these the General thought he had caught me; but being unable to make any thing of them, he said, "certainly you have taken plans of the "neighbouring country;" to which I replied, "surely, Monsieur le Général, you "cannot think I would throw away my "time in secretly taking plans, which I can "buy in any bookseller's shop for a few "francs, and infinitely more accurate than "it would be possible for me to make "them." He then said, "but you have "written disrespectfully of his Majesty the "Emperor!" In answer to which I observed that, "he was in possession of my "papers, and would most probably find

" on perusing them, that I never gave my-
" self a thought about his Emperor; but
" that if he should happen to find him men-
" tioned, he would be pleased to consider
" that I was a British officer, by whom his
" Majesty could not in reason expect to be
" paid compliments."

My papers, after being six weeks at Paris, were returned to me, with a polite note from the Duc de Feltre, Minister of War, to the commandant of the dépôt, expressing his sorrow for the trouble occasioned me on this subject.

Not long after this, I was visited one morning by the lieutenant of *gend'armerie*, who notified the commandant's desire to see me immediately. On my arrival, this officer expressed his concern at the very unpleasant duty imposed on him, in being obliged to inform me that I was a close prisoner, by order of the Emperor,

and

and then read a letter from the Minister of War, explaining the cause.* From the General I was conducted to the convent of St. Vannes, in the citadel, where a small room, about fourteen feet square, was allotted me, the window of which was strongly barred. Two *gend'armes* were placed in a little passage leading to the room, each of whom I was obliged to pay for guarding me. The commandant was, however, so kind as to permit me to take the air within the citadel during the day, at which times a *gend'arme* always kept a few paces behind me; but during the night I was grievously tormented by these myrmidons, for as they kept watch alternately for an hour, each, when it was his turn to mount, opened my door, and politely inquired if I wanted any thing? So strict were their orders

* Appendix.

to take care of me, that not content with this hourly intrusion, they would often repeat the same kind inquiry in the interval; so that during the whole time I remained here, I scarcely got one hour's continued rest. I could not help comparing my situation to that of the unfortunate Dauphin, in the Temple, when Simon the monster of a shoemaker, who had charge of him, and who, no doubt, was directed to torment him to death, would cry out every hour, " *com-*
" *ment tu portes toi, Capet?*"

In this close confinement I remained for seven weeks, as an hostage, to deter the English government from punishing a French general officer, who had not only broken his parole, but had also laid plans for arming and raising of the Frenchprisoners in England; which, according to the laws of war, subjected him to the punishment of a spy. When I was at length

set

Drawn on Stone.

View of the Castle of Bitche.

Published by Edw.d Kerby, Stafford Str.t Bond Str.t W.st 1814.

set at liberty, it was without the slightest expression of concern that such harsh measures had been necessary; a species of apology I had a right to expect at least.

During my confinement I feared nothing so much as being removed to Bitche, of which place I had received such accounts, as left scarce a doubt of death being preferable. One of these narratives, which I received from a gentleman who had inhabited its subterraneous dungeons, I shall beg leave to present to my readers.

"We quitted Quesnoi with a detach-
"ment of Spanish and Swedish prisoners,
"and refractory conscripts. Among them
"was the wife of a Swedish captain of a
"ship, who had died of his wounds at
"Mezieres. He had fought his ship with
"great gallantry, and his wife had receiv-
"ed two musket-balls in the thigh, from
"which she had not recovered when she

" was dismissed from the hospital, for the
" dépôt at Roquelon, and was every night
" shut up in the common prison with the
" rest of the prisoners; though her youth,
" not being above twenty-two; her sex;
" and above all her beauty, it might be
" supposed, would have procured her other
" treatment. The prisoners were thirty-
" nine in number, all chained together
" and handcuffed, except the two English,
" who, though also handcuffed, were in-
" dulged with being only tied to the tails
" of two of the horses of the escort, which
" was composed of Portuguese chasseurs à
" cheval, and who treated the prisoners in
" the most inhuman manner, preventing
" their receiving any succours from the
" inhabitants of the towns we passed
" through; so that many of the Spani-
" ards died of hunger and fatigue. The
" prisoners were drummed into the towns

" in

" in ranks, and if any one ventured to look
" round he was sure to receive a *coup de*
" *sabre.*

" At last we arrived at Bitche, and were
" marched to the Petite Tête, where we
" were searched for concealed instruments
" with which we might attempt our escape.
" From hence we were conducted to the
" subterraneous dungeons, and, to our
" great surprise, were better received than
" we expected. The first night we were put
" into the great dungeon, in which were
" three or four hundred midshipmen, sol-
" diers, sailors, and others, jumbled
" together. The descent to it was by
" about fifty or sixty steps; and on
" reaching the bottom we were received
" with three cheers, immediately hoisted
" on the shoulders of four men, and
" marched round the place with hallowing
" and shouting. A blanket was then pro-
" duced,

" duced, into which we were forced to en-
" ter, and received a hearty tossing. These
" ceremonies we thought would make us
" free of these gloomy abodes, but in addi-
" tion we were obliged to give two bottles of
" *snick*, an ardent spirit made from pota-
" toes, which, when mixed with water,
" turns quite blue; it is not, however,
" considered more unwholesome than other
" spirits.

" In two or three days we were shifted
" from the grand to the little dungeon,
" called by the seamen *Saint Giles's*. The
" descent was by nearly the same number
" of steps as to the great one, and we were
" made free by going through the same
" ceremonies as before, with a double al-
" lowance of *snick*, which being drank,
" and some of the party being half seas over,
" I was asked " if I could shew?" To
" which, not knowing the meaning, I an-
" swered,

" swered, " yes." A ring was immediately
" formed; I was stripped to the buff, and
" a champion, nearly of my height, but
" much stouter, stood forward, and in
" self-defence I was obliged to commence
" a boxing match, which was regulated
" by all the rules of pugilism, each having
" his bottle-holder and second. At the
" end of every third round we each got a
" glass of *snick*; and in this manner I was
" forced to fight for an hour and a half:
" but being inferior to my antagonist, I
" received a drubbing that prevented my
" moving for six days.

" The dungeon, which resembles a large
" wine vault, is sunk twenty-five to thirty
" feet under ground, and excavated in a
" saltpetre rock. In many places the water
" drips continually from the vaults, and in
" winter the cold and damp are beyond
" description; nor had the prisoners in

" general

" general clothing sufficient to prevent
" the baneful effects on their health; the
" blanket allowed to each being usually one
" condemned from the soldiers' barracks.
" In these shocking dungeons the prisoners
" were locked up from eight o'clock at
" night till the same hour in the morning,
" when they were mustered out, and per-
" mitted to remain in the yard, which is
" about one hundred and twenty paces in
" length and thirty in breadth, until noon;
" they were then again mustered into the
" subterraneous receptacle, and remained
" there till two, when they were again let
" out into the yard until six in the evening.

" From such horrid abodes it is na-
" tural to conclude that many attempts
" would be made to escape. In many in-
" stances they have been successful, nei-
" ther bars nor walls being capable of re-
" sisting the perseverance and determina-
" tion

" tion of despair. Four midshipmen in
" particular escaped, by excavating a depth
" of seventy feet, until they arrived at a
" subterraneous passage, which leads from
" the fort to the neighbouring woods, and
" is three leagues in length. This success-
" ful attempt some time after induced the
" whole of the prisoners to make a similar
" one, and each was sworn to secresy and
" perseverance. In a few days they arrived
" at the subterraneous passage, but there
" were still three wooden doors and an iron
" one to be forced, before they could gain
" the outside of the fort. These obstacles
" were also overcome, and the moment
" of accomplishment had just arrived,
" when one of the prisoners, a Jerseyman
" named Williams, waited on the Com-
" mandant, to whom he discovered the
" whole plot. The Commandant, with a
" degree of ferocity without excuse, be-

" cause

" cause without necessity, ordered a guard
" of veteran soldiers to be placed at the
" spot where the prisoners were to emerge
" from their gloomy abode, with orders not
" to fire till a dozen at least were on the
" outside. These orders were exactly obey-
" ed: the whole were shot dead, and their
" bodies exposed in the yard of the fort.

" This indeed was not, by many, the
" only instance of prisoners being killed
" in a cruel and wanton manner. Among
" the most lamented was Mr. Thomas
" Thomson, of his Majesty's cutter the
" Dove, who was run through the body
" with a bayonet by a sentinel, who
" quitted his post sixty yards for the pur-
" pose. Another circumstance of cool
" atrocity also deserves to be mentioned;
" Lieutenant Essel, of the Navy, and four-
" teen others, had prepared a rope, to des-
" cend the formidable wall of the fort,

" which

" which was well secured and sufficiently
" strong, but as descending one at a time
" would have caused too much delay, the
" whole fifteen determined to descend at
" once. This plan, however, was discover-
" ed to a veteran officer, who waited pa-
" tiently until all these unfortunate young
" men were on the rope, when, to the
" shame of humanity, he cut it: several
" were dashed to pieces, and their muti-
" lated bodies exposed, while none escaped
" without a broken limb."

Such is the melancholy picture of what the English prisoners had to expect from French generosity.

CHAPTER XXXIX.

Verdun.... Excursion to Clermont.... Position of la Lune.... Varennes.... Pretty couturière.... Innkeeper.... Woods.

DURING my residence at Verdun, I received permission from the Commandant to make several excursions in the department, the first of which was to Clermont, the environs of which are extremely picturesque, being extensively wooded, with openings that afford the finest views. Here we dined at the Saint Nicholas, a good inn, and the next morning set out for Beaulieu; and after travelling through woods for some miles, arrived at an open spot, with a rock at one extremity, in some measure resembling the bow of a ship in shape. On the

the left, and on a very steep declivity, with a south-east aspect, was a fine vineyard, remarkable for the good quality and abundance of its produce. The scenery around was romantic, being diversified with wood and well cultivated and fruitful lands. After taking some refreshment at a cabaret in a little hamlet, we returned by a different route, entirely through woods, until within half a league of Clermont, where we stopped a moment to examine the position taken up by Arthur Dillon, when the Prussian army was advancing into the heart of France, at the commencement of the revolution. The neglect of not occupying this position has been considered as a great fault on the part of the King of Prussia, instead of allowing his army to waste itself in idleness and sickness in the town of Verdun.

The following morning we proceeded to-

wards Varennes, the name of which will descend through the annals of history, from the arrest of the weak, and therefore unfortunate Louis XVI. While we sent the carriage by the direct road, we made a circuit to the left, but lost our way in the wood, though guided by a gentleman who had resided some time at Clermont. At length we reached an open spot, with some beautiful meadows, watered by a small river, which in one spot formed a circular basin. At the foot of a hill was a manufactory of table earthenware, established by some respectable individuals, who had formerly belonged to the order of noblesse, but who, having lost every thing by the revolution, sought here a retreat, and the means of existence by their industry. The manufactory, however, is said to be on the decline; and indeed it has no appearance of prosperity. We met several

of

of the persons interested in this speculation, and observed a striking contrast between them and the other inhabitants of the country, not only in their language, which was pure Parisian, but in that civility and politeness, for which Frenchmen were much more conspicuous under the ancient than the modern regime.

We next reached a small but romantic village called La Chalade, where we refreshed ourselves and horses. Here we were struck with the beauty and manners of a *couturière*, which were particularly conspicuous, as the lower class of Lorrainese females are remarkable for their ugliness and coarse manners, and a handsome female peasant is quite a *lusus naturæ*. This coarseness of feature doubtless proceeds from the hard and continual labour in the open air, to which they are exposed from their earliest infancy, which while it

gives them a masculine air and robust health, totally destroys those delicate traits of feature and form, so commonly observed among English country girls. Amidst such a scarcity of beauty, it is no wonder that our handsome *couturière* made an impression on us, and afforded subject for conversation for several days.

In the evening we arrived at Varennes, and put up at an inn, the landlord of which enjoys the infamous celebrity of having arrested Louis XVI.: an act which, beyond doubt, entitles him to be considered as one of the conspicuous characters of the revolution; for had the Monarch escaped, it is more than probable that all the horrors of that terrible convulsion would have been spared; but when once the blood of the King had been shed, the cutting off all those who were suspected of adhering to him was the necessary consequence; until

at

at length, habituated to slaughter, the very existence of the miscreants who were successively in power depended on a continuance of the horrid system.

There seems to have been a fatality attending every action of the unfortunate Louis, who, had it not been for his paternal wish to spare the blood of his subjects, might have saved both his crown and life. Had he put himself at the head of a few of the most popular nobles, his standard would have been flocked to by all classes of his subjects, and he might have marched to Paris and annihilated the revolutionists, whose principles at that time were not yet successfully disseminated throughout the country. The infatuated monarch, however, like a bird upon the spray, contemplated the venomous reptiles beneath him, until every energy became paralized, and he suffered himself to fall into their grasp.

But to return to our innkeeper: his countenance denoted all that I had conceived of a sanguinary revolutionist, to which his dress considerably added; for he held a knife in his hand with which he had been just cutting up meat, and his shirt sleeves were tucked up, like those of an executioner. Curiosity led us to visit the house to which the King was conducted, after being arrested; it is, however, totally unworthy of notice on any other account.

On our return from Varennes to Verdun we struck off the road to visit Montfaucon, a very small village, situated on the highest elevation of the country, and commanding a most extensive view, with considerable woods, although since the revolution they have been constantly cutting down.

CHAPTER XL.

Excursion from Verdun to Nancy and Metz... Moselle....Baths at Metz....Préfet....Arsenal and citadel....Public walks....Streets....History.... Jews.

My second tour from Verdun was to Metz and Nancy. At the former we stopped at the Hôtel de Pont à Mousson, where we had an excellent dinner, of which salmon and crayfish sauce formed a conspicuous part; the Moselle being celebrated for the abundance and excellence of this fish, with which Metz supplies Verdun and all the neighbouring towns; for though the Meuse is a river of much greater magnitude, it has neither salmon nor trout, both of which abound in the Moselle. Near the

bridge which crosses the Moselle, and close to the inn, are public hot and cold baths, which from their external appearance, and from the report I received of them, led me to flatter myself with the hope of enjoying the luxury of a comfortable warm bath; but the following morning I found myself completely disappointed, for instead of a comfortable apartment to dress in, and a quiet bath, I found a public room, the length of the building, appropriated to the men, with small, inconvenient and uncomfortable pigeon holes, the heat of which, as well as the filthy appearance of the persons in waiting, removed all inclination to bathing. I therefore retired, disappointed and disgusted.

In the forenoon I waited on the Préfet, Monsieur Vaublanc, to whom I had letters, and who received me with the frankness and ease of a polished gentleman. He is of an antient family, and possesses those polite

polite and affable manners for which the noblesse of France were formerly so justly praised. Monsieur Vaublanc speaks a little English, and is a great admirer of the English character. Our conversation turned on the merits of the celebrated British authors, particularly Gibbon, of whose work on the Roman Empire a new French translation had just appeared, which was considered much superior to any of the former ones.

During the revolution Monsieur Vaublanc had been obliged to emigrate into Germany, through which country he travelled as a performer on the violin, his musical talents being very considerable. He pressed me to dine with him, but having fixed on our plan of proceeding to Nancy the following day, I declined his kindness for the present, promising to avail myself of it on my return.

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The remainder of the day we devoted to visiting the objects most worthy of notice; and first made the circuit of the ramparts, until we came opposite the arsenal and citadel, into which no stranger is admitted, but of which we could form a correct idea from the rampart. Their situation is low, and they appear to be completely commanded from a height of considerable extent on the left entering the town. The Préfet assured me that nothing was to be apprehended from this position, but its appearance would not permit me to give credit to the assertion. The citadel is celebrated for its vigorous defence in 1552, when commanded by the Duc de Guise. It was besieged by the Austrians, under Charles the Fifth: but the perfection to which engineering and artillery has been since brought is such, that I should suppose it could not long hold out, if besieged in form.

form. At this time the workmen in the arsenal were busily employed in preparing and forwarding guns and ordnance stores to the army.

Metz possesses several handsome public walks, and a fine gothic cathedral, but which has lost all its former internal splendour. Here is also an academy for the education of officers for the engineers, on a large and liberal footing, extensive barracks and military magazines, and one of the finest military hospitals of France; a handsome theatre, and a public library, containing sixty thousand volumes, and many valuable manuscripts. It has also a lyceum, in which, it is said, the sciences and belles lettres are taught with success.

The streets of Metz are in general narrow, badly paved, and worse lighted, the funds for these, as well as all other municipal purposes, having been seized on by Buona-

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parte for his military chest. A few days previous to our being here, the Emperor passed through, and inquired in a careless manner of the Mayor, what was the strength of the city chest? The latter not expecting the result, and wishing to shew the prosperous state of the town, gave it in as considerably greater than it really was; upon which Napoleon very coolly ordered one of the commissaries of his suite to receive the amount for the caisse militaire: and the Mayor, of course, not daring to contradict his first assertion, was obliged to make up the deficiency.

Metz is considered a very antient town, having been the capital of the Mediomatrici at the period of the conquest of Gaul by Julius Cesar. It was then called Diodurum. Having fallen under the dominion of the Francs, it became the capital of the kingdom of Austrasia. After the decline

decline of the dynasty of Carlovingians, it declared itself free, under the protection of the Emperors of Germany. In 1552, it was ceded by way of guarantee to France, and was finally united to it by the treaty of Westphalia in 1648.

Metz contains a great number of Jews, who before the revolution enjoyed a kind of separate political existence, under the special protection of royal letters patent. Their progressive multiplication affords a curious fact in the history of human propagation. In 1562, there were but four families; in 1589, eight; in 1603, twenty-four; in 1614, fifty-eight; in 1624, seventy-six; in 1667, ninety-six; in 1674, one hundred and nineteen; in 1681, one hundred and seventy-four; in 1698, two hundred and sixty-four; in 1789, five hundred and fifty. This increase will appear more extraordinary, when it is considered that they

they were long subject to all the humiliations that could be inflicted on them, by a people who held them in detestation. According to an ordinance of 1567, they were forced to hear mass in the churches every Sunday, under a penalty of forty sous. By another, in 1635, they were forbid to quit their houses on the sabbath; and by a third, in 1703, they were obliged to wear yellow hats. They were also subjected to the same toll duties as cloven-footed beasts. It might have been hoped that the revolution, by which the Jews were admitted to a community of rights with the other classes of citizens, would have tended to inspire them with sentiments of justice and honesty. This, however, seems as yet to be far from the case, and they universally give themselves up, as formerly, to cheating and usury.

Since the assembling of the Grand Sanhedrim

hedrim at Paris in 1806, political and religious regulations have been established, which they are bound to obey, and which the chief Jews are legally authorized to enforce.

CHAPTER XLI.

Nancy....Pont à Mousson....University....Roman Aqueduct.... Political innkeeper .... Nancy.... Spanish prisoners ....General commandant .... Stanislaus .... Return to Metz....French jockey ....Spanish renegadoes.

QUITTING Metz early in the morning, for Nancy, we reached Pont à Mousson to breakfast. This is a considerable town of from six to seven thousand inhabitants, situated on both sides of the Moselle, which is here crossed by a stone bridge, and divides the town into nearly two equal parts. Many of the houses appear to be very antient, but there is a handsome palace, and the streets we passed through were broad and strait. Near the town is a mineral spring, celebrated for its efficacy in

in the cure of several disorders. Pont à Mousson possessed an university, founded by Charles the Third, Duke of Lorraine, in 1572, but which, by order of Louis XV. was removed to Nancy, in 1768.

Previous to reaching this town, and about two leagues from Metz, we passed a Roman aqueduct, noticed by Gibbon in his History of the Roman Empire, together with that of Segovia in Spain, as being the two most perfect Roman constructions to be found in Europe. By this canal, which extends near one thousand two hundred yards across an extensive valley, forming a communication between two hills, the water was formerly conveyed to the public of Metz. Though several of the arches are broken, the pillars all remain entire, and the whole forms an imposing and fine ruin.

From Pont à Mousson to Nancy the country is extremely picturesque, being

finely diversified by hills and vallies, well wooded and watered. The extreme heat of the day induced us to halt and refresh ourselves at a little village about two miles from Nancy, where we met with a neat public house, which reminded us of those of our own country. The landlord soon discovering we were English, entered freely into conversation on the passing events, and told us that he considered England as the greatest nation in the world, from the immense exertions she made since the French revolution, to preserve the balance of power in Europe.

The mention of the revolution led him to enter into the sufferings of the neighbourhood during that period. From the door of his house, he pointed out six magnificent country seats, formerly inhabited, during a great part of the year, by their noble owners, who disseminated throughout the country the cheerfulness of opulence,

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content and prosperity; now, on the contrary, a gloomy melancholy is remarked in every countenance, and it is easy to perceive that sullen discontent, which dares not vent itself in words; "in short," said our landlord, "one would suppose that the natural "disposition of the people was entirely "changed. Instead of the splendid equi- "pages which formerly rolled in every di- "rection, no other carriage is now to be "seen, but a creeping diligence, or a mi- "serable one horse cabriolet, while the "châteaux have become the property of "the revolutionary *parvenus*, who entirely "neglect them, or of *scélérats*, who have "acquired possession of them by the most "infamous means."

Near our inn, a handsome bridge of cut stone crossed the Moselle, which river, after serpentizing for some distance, disappears from the view, in a picturesque

wooded valley. The landscape in general was extremely pleasing, and recalled to mind many passages in Goldsmith's Deserted Village, which though not always entirely applicable to the scene before us, had a sufficient resemblance to make us dwell on it with pleasure.

We entered Nancy through a very handsome arched gate, which terminated a promenade planted with trees, and having a row of buildings on the left. Several Spanish officers, prisoners of war, (for whom Nancy is a dépôt) were on this walk; and amongst them, I easily recognized the Duke of Grenada, by the description I had heard of him. Though it is probable the greatest part of this nobleman's estates in Valencia, are in the hands of the French, he still draws large sums from Spain, of which unfortunately he does not make the best use; for being

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an extreme bigot, instead of relieving his unfortunate countrymen in captivity, his wealth is chiefly squandered in donations to the priests who surround him, and who have still sufficient influence to persuade him, that giving to the Church is lending to God, and that he is thereby laying up for himself a treasure in heaven.

We put up at the Aigle Impérial, an extensive, convenient, and well conducted hotel, where we got an excellent dinner and good wines. In the evening we received a visit from Monsieur Duchard and another gentleman; with the former I had formed some acquaintance at Verdun, where he paid several visits during our races, which took place once a fortnight. I had several horses on the turf there myself, and ran them for large sums with various success, winning considerably at first, but leaving off a loser.

The following morning we waited on the general officer commanding at Nancy, to shew our permission from Baron de Beauchene, for making this tour. As the General had been an officer in the antient régime, I expected to find in him the manners of a gentleman, but was disappointed; nor did I wonder at it when I learnt that he had deserted the cause of his sovereign, and received his promotion from the revolutionists. It would appear that this class of rogues, being apprehensive that they might be suspected and sacrificed for not going far enough, generally exceed all others in atrocious and inhuman acts.

The room into which we were introduced to this wretch was filled with officers, conscripts, and peasants, with whom he was occupied. When our passports were presented to him, he fell into a rage not to be described; struck the table violently with his hand,

hand, stamped and made frightful grimaces, and gave vent to his passion in low and unbecoming invectives against the English, whose insolence he knew how to curb, and that if the Emperor was of his mind, he would exterminate the whole race from the face of the earth. Such observations I of course thought unworthy of notice; and looking at the little deformed wretch who talked of exterminating us, with an expression of contemptuous pity rather than of resentment, I disdainfully walked out of the room, like a king in a tragedy. The aide-de-camp followed and begged me to return; to which I replied, that "he could "not suppose I would enter again into "the company of a madman, for whose "conduct nothing but absolute insanity "could be pleaded in excuse." This fellow, for he is unworthy the title of officer, is named La Coste; he po-

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sitively ordered us to quit Nancy that moment, writing on the back of our passport, that he acknowledged no permissions but the minister's for prisoners to quit the department of their dépôt. This order we however did not think proper to obey, but remained till next morning. A moment's consideration might have shewn him, that if there was any impropriety in allowing us as prisoners to visit Nancy, it was the Baron de Beauchene he should have addressed and not us, and that his conduct could not tend to injure any one but himself, in thus shamefully disgracing the situation and rank in which he was placed.

On my return to Verdun I wrote to the Baron de Beauchene on the subject, and took care that the contents of my letter should be made known to M. La Coste.*

* Vide Appendix.

In the course of the day we visited whatever was worthy of notice in Nancy, which is one of the handsomest towns in France, the chief place of the department of the Meurthe, and has a population of thirty thousand inhabitants. It is divided into the old and new town; the former has little to recommend it except a circus, round which were placed in niches the statues and tombs of the princes of Lorraine, but which were mutilated and demolished by the barbarous revolutionary fanaticism of a regiment of Marseillois which passed through the town in 1793. In the new town, the houses are fronted with hewn stone, and are very elegant and regular, and the public buildings magnificent: amongst the latter is the cathedral, a superb gothic edifice; the Place Impériale, formerly Place Royale, in which is a triumphal arch; the Hôtel de Ville; the Palais

lais de Justice, and the Exchange. The public walks in the centre of the town are also extremely grand. Most of these beauties it owes to Stanislaus, who, when a second time deprived of the crown of Poland, received from France the Duchies of Lorraine and Bar. The memory of this prince, whose benevolence acquired him the merited title of le Bienfaisant, is still revered by the Lorrainese; and his monument, which had been preserved during the revolution by its removal to the lyceum, has since been replaced in the cathedral. Stanislaus owed his elevation to the throne of Poland, to his happy countenance and air of grandeur, which gained him the esteem and friendship of Charles XII., who obliged the Poles to elect him for their king. The Battle of Pultawa, in 1709, having overturned the power of Charles, Stanislaus was obliged to quit Poland, and cede

cede the crown to his rival Augustus, supported by Russia. Stanislaus lived retired in Alsace until 1725, when Louis XV. married his daughter; and on the death of Augustus in 1733, hoping to remount the throne, he repaired into Poland, but his competitor, the electoral prince of Saxony, prevailed over him, and by the treaty of 1736 Stanislaus was to preserve the empty title of King of Poland, and retain the duchies of Lorraine and Bar, during his life; which was terminated, by the unhappy accident of his robe de chambre taking fire, in 1766.

Before the revolution Nancy was one of the gayest and most flourishing towns of France. It was the winter resort of the English families from Spa, and the chief nobility of Lorraine resided during the summer at their châteaux in the vicinity. Having lost both these sources of opulence

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and gaiety, it is now equally poor and dull. Its manufactures, consisting chiefly of coarse woollen, paper, candles, and earthenware, are insignificant, and do not find their way out of the department.

The handsome buildings of the ancient university are now occupied by a lyceum, in which is a good gallery of pictures. Here is also a public library of fifty thousand volumes, a cabinet of natural history, and a botanic garden, with above four thousand indigenous and exotic plants. All these establishments are open to the public as well as to the students of the lyceum, and render Nancy one of the most literary and instructive towns of France.

Having seen every thing worthy of notice in the town, we proceeded to dine, by invitation, with M. Duchard, where a select and well bred company was assembled; which, with the comforts of an excellent dinner,

dinner, finished the day in the most agreeable manner.

The following morning we set out, and arrived at Metz, where we found an invitation to dine the following day with the Prefect. At this dinner were collected above eighty persons, consisting of the chief authorities of Metz, and the heads of the academies of Metz and Nancy, who had been called hither on some subject of public discussion. The dinner was sumptuous, and we received all possible attention from the company; which was indeed carried so far, as to remain at table after the ladies had withdrawn, in compliance to our English custom; for which reason, also, Port and Madeira were set before us. Many of the party had emigrated to England during the revolution, and hence the conversation turned upon the history of English families, and their connexions in France. This subject afford-

ed me an opportunity of noticing the number of English families, descended from or connected by alliance with those of Holland, Germany, Prussia, &c. which led to the idea of one grand connexion throughout the continent; and I could not refrain from observing, "how much it was to "be lamented that, instead of being cul- "tivated, this connexion was every day "declining, from the regulations enacted "by the French Emperor, which prevent- "ed all commercial intercourse between "the nations."

On joining the ladies we passed through a superb suite of apartments, the centre one, in particular, being lofty, well proportioned, and magnificently furnished. This I learnt was the Salle de Réception, in which the Emperor received the public authorities, in his occasional visits to Metz. A full length picture of him, inimitably painted by David, and several well executed

cuted representations of battles, covered the walls.

Among the ladies was the Prefect's daughter, Madame Seconde, the death of whose husband, an officer of engineers, killed in the memorable siege of Saragossa, had thrown her into a state of melancholy, which seemed to gain ground by time; and a delicate charming boy, her son, was now her only consolation. Her manners were gentle and engaging, and we conversed together for some time, when she suddenly rose, and apologized for abruptly quitting me by saying, that my having come so lately from Spain brought her misfortunes to her recollection, and unfitted her for society.

The Prefect was extremely fond of riding, and being seldom able to get any one at Metz to accompany him, as few Frenchmen ride either for pleasure or exercise alone, gladly accepted my offer of accompanying

panying him, and we set off on a gravelled circular road, outside of the town, about half a mile in circumference. He was followed by what he called a *joquet Anglais*, who was however more like any thing than an English jockey, his dress being a huge cocked hat with a gold loop and button, a pair of stiff hessian boots coming half way up his thighs, yellow breeches richly ornamented, and a silver laced jacket. The horse he rode shewing some blood, I observed to the Prefect that from his appearance he ought to have speed, of which I said I should be able to judge, as I had a stop watch, if he would order him to be galloped with dispatch round the circle. The jockey on receiving this order stuck his spurs violently into him, and soon quitting the course, performed a zig zag between the trees at full speed, so that I was apprehensive of his fate; but at length he

he reached the main road, which he pursued at full gallop until both horse and jockey disappeared from our sight. The Prefect was now *au désespoir*, I therefore rode on to gain tidings of them, in which not being successful, it was concluded they had fallen into the canal, and that both horse and man were drowned. On our return, however, we found they had reached home in safety, with no other damage than the loss of the cocked hat and a stirrup, both of which were recovered in the course of the day.

The following morning we returned towards Verdun, and on the road met many Spaniards who had entered the French service. On inquiring of some of them their inducement for joining the enemy of their country, they told us that nothing but the last necessity had forced them to it;

that they had suffered for two years every species of persecution and hardship, being obliged to work, both winter and summer, on the canals up to their middles in water, with an insufficient allowance of the very worst provisions, and no clothing but the tattered rags in which they were taken; that a great number of their comrades had died; and that some of their officers setting the example, they had entered in despair. Their woeful appearance, indeed, was sufficient to convince us of the truth of the story: for, as Shakespeare observes of the apothecary in Romeo and Juliet,

"Sharp Misery had worn them to the bone."

I therefore condoled with them; commiserating and pitying, rather than condemning them, and sharing with them the small sum which remained in my pocket.

CHAPTER XLII.

Verdun races....French poetics....Scandal....Cottage.....Varennes, sous-préfet, innkeeper, Louis XVI.....Letter from the Minister....Grand army ....Death of the commandant.....Institutions at Verdun....St. Mihiel.

On my return to Verdun, in order to enliven the sameness and *ennui* which pervaded the dépôt, I had some horses on the turf, and our races were established. They were attended by the first families of the department; and wishing to return the attentions of the Prefect of Metz, I invited him and his family to a dinner, at which one hundred and ten of my countrymen, with several French, were entertained to their entire satisfaction. Among the latter was the Chevalier de la Lance, an excellent musician and composer, as well as poet.

On this occasion he invoked his Muse, and produced some verses suited to the subject. The old observation, that people are generally poets before they are philosophers, is particularly true with respect to France, where you may find a poet in every village, but very rarely a philosopher even in a city.

Where so many persons are collected, without occupation or internal resources for passing the time, it is not strange if scandal should predominate; the destruction of each others characters, indeed, formed the chief occupation of many of our countrymen, and no story, however improbable, but was well received, provided it tended to the prejudice of another. We had amongst us also a number of people, who might with great propriety be called mischief-makers, who, in pure friendship, retailed and aggravated every thing they heard in society.

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The latter, from these causes, became confined to a few, who could hurt each other, and a distinction was formed between the mischief-makers and the safe persons.

Being tired with the monotonous life I was obliged to lead, I took a small cottage for the summer, in a village about six miles from Verdun, which served to vary the scene, at the same time that it afforded me an opportunity of making myself acquainted with the rural regulations, and manners of the villagers.

In one of my excursions I visited Varennes a second time, and stopped at an auberge, with the sign of the Bras d'Or, which afforded no little occasion for reflection on the vicissitude of human opinions, within the last twenty years. The sign had formerly been the Arms of France, surmounted by a crown. In the revolution the crown had been effaced, but not so

completely as to prevent its being still perceptible, and the fleur de lis had been converted into a basket of eggs. Over the arms had been painted "*le noble jeu de billiards;*" the word *noble* had been also daubed over, but plainly appeared, and, as well as the crown, seemed to intimate to the people, "you may "attempt to extinguish monarchy, antient "order and establishments, but sufficient will "still appear, in spite of you, to put you to "the blush." On this same sign the words *Caffé des gardes nationales*, and *Caffé des amis de la Constitution*, were also but partly defaced, and over them written, *Bon vin de Champagne et Bourgogne, et liqueurs!* The total repainting of the sign would certainly not have cost above twelve francs; and this parsimony, though it may seem a trivial fact, affords a strong picture of the character of the French, and proves with what little difficulty they change their opinions,

opinions, their government, or their religion, yet cannot so easily bear to have their pockets affected.

Monsieur Drouet, the sous-préfet of Varennes, was the chief person in the arrest of Louis XVI.; he was then maître de poste. Sauce, a cooper and tallow chandler, and adjoint to the Mayor, with the innkeeper already described, and ten or twelve others, stopped the carriage, and conducted the King to Sauce's house, which we had the curiosity to visit, but found it worthy of notice only from that circumstance. Varennes throughout seems to be greatly declining, the best houses being uninhabited and falling to ruin, and its whole appearance is gloomy and desponding, as if the vengeance of Providence had visited the people for their conduct to their King. Nor does it seem that Napoleon shews them any favour, their

anti-monarchical principles not being to his present taste. The landlord of the Bras d'Or is, indeed, an example of the vengeance I have mentioned. He was one of those concerned in the King's arrest; and he informed me that, before the revolution, having the reputation of being an excellent cook, he received a handsome salary from a convent of Benedictines, which, together with his inn, and other fruits of his industry, enabled him to amass a handsome competency, but which had been dissipated by the revolution. His eldest daughter, whom he described as all perfection, had been carried off by a decline at eighteen; his eldest son and second daughter at the same age followed her; and his remaining son and daughter, who were now approaching this fatal time, evinced every symptom of the same malady!

On my return to Verdun from this excursion,

sion, I found the commandant, the Baron de Beauchene, had received a letter from the Minister of War, stating that it was understood I acted as agent for the British government, without any authority from that of the French, and desiring me to explain myself on the subject, which I accordingly did in a letter to the Minister; and though couched in strong language, it seemed satisfactory, as I heard no more of the business.* It is probable that some one had denounced me to the Minister; and in France, as formerly at Venice by the mouth of stone, the government receive every kind of denunciation, and none, however absurd, but is often acted upon, and the person denounced apprehended, without being able even to conjecture the cause.

The news published from the grand army, under the immediate command of Napoleon,

* See Appendix.

leon, began to be very contradictory about the month of February 1813, and though the articles in the *Moniteur* boasted of wonderful successes and prodigious advantages, it was easy to perceive their falsehood, not only from the contradictions from day to day, but from the impossibility of the armies making the rapid movements imputed to them. At length we received accounts of the death of Colonel Desiré, commanding the 11th chasseurs, and of Captain Buffon, and several other officers of the same corps; and, finally, that this regiment was intirely cut to pieces. At the same time, the French inhabitants were informed of the fate of many of their friends through circuitous channels; all direct communication being prohibited, which still more increased suspicion. At length the papers began to let out the real state of things, by accusing the Russians of treachery,

ery, in leading their army into such difficulties, when their cavalry had suffered prodigiously at first from the want of forage and water, and afterwards from the latter element being in too great a profusion, a considerable proportion of their horse having been drowned. By degrees the disasters of the army were announced in a semi-official manner in the papers; but in such a way that, contradicting the private accounts of their losses, they met with no credit; and it was at last found necessary to state the whole truth, and the famous twenty-ninth bulletin appeared, which, as being worthy of preservation in every work that has France for its subject, I shall insert in the Appendix.

In the spring of the year the commandant of the dépôt died, generally lamented, and particularly by the prisoners. His disease was an indigestion, and consequent inflammatory

inflammatory fever, produced by the too great use of rich and luxurious food, without taking sufficient exercise; and being of a full corpulent habit of body, together with the ignorance of the French physician as to the proper treatment of this disease, soon carried him off. Instead of copious bleeding, &c. they loaded his stomach with ptisan and milk whey, which, on a stomach already overcharged, is supposed to have decided his fate. The practice of the French physicians may, indeed, be compared to that of Dr. Sangrado, in having only two remedies, ptisan and lavements. The latter indeed is the universal panacea, and the instrument for administering it is a part of the furniture of even the poorest cottage, as well as of the most splendid hotel; and I have seen a bet won more than once, when laid at a venture, that this instrument would be sure to be found in the possession

session of any peasant, for instance; into whose head it might be supposed such an idea could never enter, and which to an Englishman is equally strange and disgusting.

In passing through Ireland I have often observed, that in no peasant's house did I ever see a warming pan, while in England it is generally the first object that strikes you on entering a cottage. It is also universally seen in France, and thus they are here doubly armed. But to return to our deceased commandant: his funeral was attended by every Englishman in the dépôt, whose good will he had generally gained, by the marked contrast between his treatment of them and what they had experienced from the tyrannical and cheating Wirion and Courcelles. Among other institutions formed for the benefit of the prisoners, there had formerly been a seminary for the junior midshipmen of the navy, established

established by Captains Brenton and Woodriff, but which General Wirion had suppressed, and this class of young men were again permitted to become their own masters, and consequently ran into every species of excess. Captain Oller now again procured the permission of the Commandant to re-establish a school, which was superintended by Captain Hoffman, of the Navy; and a number of lieutenants and the young midshipmen were again drawn from the vicious and idle course they were running. I cannot quit the subject I am now on, without also paying a tribute of deserved praise to the Reverend Mr. Jorden, for his proper and impartial distribution of the funds committed to his charge for the relief of the prisoners. His attention to his clerical duties was also highly praiseworthy, and his sermons being composed and delivered in a superior manner, his church

church was always regularly and fully attended. This notice I owe in justice to Mr. Jorden, who, from being placed in a high public situation, was exposed to the jealousy and envy of the evil disposed and malicious.

The Commandant also knowing, that the surest means of preventing the desertion of the prisoners was granting them all the indulgencies that the nature of their situation would permit, adopted this plan in its utmost latitude, by permitting them to reside in the villages, not only within the established limits of two leagues round Verdun, but also at Bar, Clermont, St. Mihiel, and other places in the department, considerably beyond these limits; nor was there an instance of this liberty being abused, or taken advantage of to escape.

I frequently visited St. Mihiel, a town of three thousand four hundred inhabitants,

tants, about seven leagues from Verdun, and on the banks of the Meuse. It is the seat of the criminal, and other superior courts of the department, which are held in an ancient convent of Benedictines, nearly in the middle of the town; the buildings of which are very extensive, containing, besides the courts, the common jail of the department, and a barrack for *gend'armes*. The library still remains tolerably perfect, and is contained in an apartment near two hundred and fifty feet long by eighty wide; the books are numerous, and among them I observed a History of England, in four volumes folio, by Lanet, considered a work of merit, and a history, with engravings, of Greek and Roman antiquities, by Grævius; tolerable editions of Herodotus Dionysius of Halicarnassus, and Xenophon; an antique and valuable history of Greece, by Georgius Palchymenes

menes and others. Byzantium Anglicæ sacra, by Henry Wharton; Monasticum Anglicanum, in which are good engravings, particularly of Christ Church College, Oxford, and the ruins of Asney Abbey, near Oxford. It has besides some valuable manuscripts. The dome of the library is handsome and perfect. I am sorry to remark, that if it were not for the care of Mr. Perrin, the librarian, the books would soon be destroyed by damp; the town allowance for their preservation being quite insufficient.

In the insignificant church of St. Etienne, in an obscure part of St. Mihiel, is a piece of sculpture worthy of the first cathedral and the best artist in Europe. It consists of a group of thirteen figures, all as large as life. In the centre is our Saviour, supported by Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea; the Virgin; an angel bearing the cross; St. Veronica carrying the crown

of thorns; Mary Magdalen kissing Christ's feet; the two Marys; the two Jews playing at dice for our Saviour's garments; a herald, and St. John. Our Saviour is extended dead, after his crucifixion. The whole has inimitable expression, and is cut out of a single block of stone which has the polish of marble, and was dug from a quarry in the neighbourhood. It is the performance of an artist named Michin or Lygin Richier, a native of the little village of Dagonville, between Ligny and St. Mihiel, whose parents were originally Calvinists. Richier had so extraordinary a genius for painting and sculpture, that at fifteen he was quite a prodigy, and the celebrated Michael Angelo (who died in 1564) passing through St. Mihiel, on his way to Nancy, was so pleased with his performances, that he prevailed on his father to permit his accompanying him to Rome.

Rome. Richier, on his return to St. Mihiel, painted a crucifix for the chapel of the Benedictines, which was much admired; and also executed a skeleton in white marble for the church of St. Etienne, at Bar, which is excellent. The grand piece of sculpture at St. Mihiel occupied him twenty years. It evaded the exterminating process of the revolution by the care of the good people of St. Mihiel; for, being placed in a large niche cut out of the rock, with an iron gate before it, they contrived to wall it up; so that when a deputation was sent down from Paris by Robespierre, to seek for and destroy all religious monuments, this escaped their fury. Every thing else that was capable of devastation within the church had been destroyed, except the stained glass in some elevated windows, which was beyond the immediate reach of the Vandals. This church was used as a

cow-house; and indeed all the religious buildings throughout France, in that calamitous period, were put to the most degrading uses.

St. Mihiel has some manufactures of lace and table linen, and in the centre of the town is a handsome barrack for one thousand cavalry.

From St. Mihiel we pursued our tour towards Commercy, on the right: not far from the former is a Roman camp, occupying the entire circular summit of a hill, and which, even in the present advanced state of the art of war, would be considered a strong position. About a fifth of the camp is protected by the Meuse, and there remains sufficient of the works on the other sides to render the whole plan very intelligible.

From hence we proceeded over a barren country, naked and ill cultivated, and again reached a rich valley on the banks of the Meuse,

Meuse, where we visited the government establishment of Sampigny, for the construction of caissons, fourgons and gun carriages. It is extremely well situated for this purpose, having the advantage of water carriage, and being in the vicinity of extensive woods and large iron works. At this time there were sufficient carriages ready here for a considerable portion of the army, and the loss of which articles had been so enormous in the late campaign, that the dépôt was now going to be cleared.* The building of this establishment has the appearance of an ancient castle: it is surrounded by a moat, cut from the Meuse and entered by a drawbridge. The vaults under it are very extensive, and some of them serve as dungeons,

* I have since had the satisfaction of knowing, that almost the whole of these carriages fell into the hands of the Allies at the disastrous retreat from Dresden.

geons, where the workmen guilty of any faults or negligence are confined. The extensiveness of the building admits the residence of many families, who receive their lodging *gratis* from the court; so that it in some measure resembles our Kensington. The gardens are also very extensive, and furnish abundance of fruit and vegetables to the residents.

The nominal governor is a black man, of the name of Garting, who is in fact a state prisoner; never being permitted to quit the château or gardens. He is married to a cousin of the Empress Josephine; and in order to be united, both of them procured divorces from their former partners. The manners of both are those of the higher class. The daughter of Madame Garting is married to a M. de la Valette, and holds a confidential place in Josephine's household. Mr. Garting has also a son

quite

quite black, married to a *bourgeoise* of Sampigny; they have three children, in whom there is this singularity, that the two boys are the colour of the father, a jet black, and the girl white. The father is employed in the payment of the workmen.

On our return to Verdun, the horse-racing again commenced, and the schemes practised to discover the speed of the various horses, by trial, without being discovered, were curious. I once saw a friend of mine up to his middle in the river, with a Frenchman's coat and cocked hat on, and a fishing rod in one hand; while in the other he held a stop watch, to ascertain the fleetness of the horse going round the course. It is probable that these *ruses de guerre* would not be deemed admissible at Newmarket: but at Verdun, the humour rendered them merely laughable; and as they were practised by each side, they

were treated as very fair, and none had a right to complain.

Every day, indeed, at Verdun produced some new anecdote, either to feed scandal, or to create a laugh. Among others, not the least rediculous was the *quiproquo* of a good English lady, into whose education the speaking of French had not entered; she conceived however that by application after her arrival in France, she had acquired a competent knowledge of the language, though she mangled it in a most miserable manner, and often confounded the masculine and feminine gender, so as to make very serious *contre-sens*. One day she had occasion to purchase some lace, and looking in her dictionary and grammar she found the phrase, *il me faut de dentelle*, which she repeated to herself in her way to the shop, until somebody accosting her, it escaped her memory, and she was long puzzled to recall

recall it; at length the exclamation from a soldier passing, of "*je m'enfou,*" caught her ear, and the analogy of sound immediately striking her, she cried out to her husband, "that's the very word I have been think-" ing of," and the husband, who knew less French than his wife, exclaimed, "how "fortunate!" On entering the milliner's shop, the good lady, as if proud of her French, addressed the mistress with, "*Ma-*" *dame, il m'en fou de votre dentelle.*" The woman and her apprentices were of course astonished at such an apostrophe, they stared with wondering eyes, and mouths wide open; but soon recollecting the mistakes of language so frequently made by the English, the mystery was cleared up, and the woman spread out her patterns, doubtless not forgetting to make *Madame l'Angloise* pay for her ignorance of the French language and customs.

An

An anecdote of the same kind occurs to my recollection, and may not be unworthy of being preserved. Two naval officers being made prisoners, and carried into Havre de Grace, with their schooners, after the usual forms were gone through, the French officer commanding, invited the English officers to *déjeuner à la fourchette.* The lieutenant, who knew not a sentence of French, inquired of his companion (who from his nautical abilities he concluded must know every thing), "what the "Frenchman said?" to which the other without hesitation replied, "that he said he "had made her fast by the fore-sheet."— "Oh, d—n my eyes," says the lieutenant, "that's a good one, they will not ride her "long, I'll warrant!"

During this period of my residence at Verdun, several detachments of Austrian and Russian prisoners passed through on their

their route to the dépôt at Soissons, and I invited several of the officers to dinner, with whose observations I was much amused. On inquiry of one of them, from what part of the Russian dominions he was, he described a place near Kamschatka, from whence he had been nine months on his journey, travelling day and night, to go to school. On demanding further, what kind of travelling there was? he replied, "that he "found the dogs very good," alluding to the mode of travelling in Kamschatka and some parts of Siberia, in sledges drawn by dogs. Another came from Astracan on the Caspian Sea. The third said he was from Archangel; he was evidently of Lapland origin. It was not a little singular to unite three of the subjects of the vast Russian empire, from its most opposite points, at an English table.

CHAPTER XLIII.

Excursion to Bar....Spanish officers....Préfet.... French civil officers....Boniface à la Françoise.... Marshal Oudinot....Dépôt of mendicity....Dunmarsi hunt....Military news....Russian and Cossack officers.

In another of our tours from Verdun, we visited Bar sur Ornain, the chief town of the department of the Meuse, though less populous than Verdun, containing only seven thousand inhabitants. It is said to have been founded by Frederick I. Duke of Lorraine, in 951. It is built at the foot and on the side of a steep hill, being divided into the upper and lower town, the streets of communication being so steep, that they are almost impassable by a carriage, which is obliged to make a circuit of

of some distance out of the town. The streets of the lower town are in general wide, many of them with rows of trees, and walks for the foot passengers between them and the houses. There are also some good squares in the lower town. The Ornain, though small, is of considerable utility, by the mills it turns. It passes close to the lower town, and is celebrated for its excellent trout, but which the French spoil by serving them up cold, with oil and vinegar for sauce. The side of the hill is covered with vines, the wine from which is considered the best of the department, and is peculiarly fit for summer, being light and wholesome.

The Paris road from Bar ascends a long hill, and is very broad; on each side is a long extent of vineyards, and the summit of the hill presents a forest of fine old oaks, intersected in various directions by carriage roads

roads and bridle paths, affording pleasant rides in summer; of which I took advantage in the heat of the day, and in these promenades frequently met with Spanish officers, this being the dépôt for the prisoners of war on parole of that nation. I often entered into conversation with them, but was generally disappointed in my hopes of deriving information from them.

On my first visit to Bar, the préfet was M. le Clerc, brother to the General who commanded at and lost St. Domingo. Although he was nearly connected with Buonaparte, by the marriage of his brother the General, with Napoleon's sister, and though Le Clerc's sister was married to Marshal Davoust, Prince d'Eckmuhl, yet these connections were insufficient to prevent his being dismissed from his office of préfet; for, as it was understood, not keeping up the appearance thought necessary to his elevated situation.

situation. Here I must observe, in justice to Buonaparte, that he does not unnecessarily squander the public money; nor are there in France any of those sinecure places, which in England afford the Opposition a never-failing topic of violent censure. In all professions in France, whether the army, the law, the church, or any other, every situation has its active duties, and the persons occupying it have constant employment; the salaries are not more than barely sufficient to support the respective ranks. The uniforms of the civil magistrates are extremely splendid, and consequently calculated to create respect in the lower orders. On public days, the préfet, sous-préfet, maire, and all the authorities, civil and military, appear in their dresses, covered with lace and embroidery, and attended by a guard of honour, proceed in procession to church to hear high mass, or possibly

possibly a *Te Deum* (by order) for a pretended victory, but which they themselves and all the world know to be a complete defeat. A procession is, however, to a Frenchman a business of joy, whatever may be its cause; and the pleasure he receives from it precludes all possibility of reflection. Thus the intentions of Government are carried into execution without a murmur. In this respect, as well as in many others, the appearance stands for the reality, and, according to the trite saying, "fine feathers make fine birds,"—for these authorities have generally plumes of various coloured feathers in their hats.

I have often wondered at our government not obliging persons holding high and lucrative employments, to maintain an appearance in proportion. A judge should go his circuit with the retinue adequate to his great office, which would create a respect for

for his person, and by a kind of reaction, a greater reverence for the laws which he comes to administer. A bishop should reflect that a portion of the considerable revenue of his diocese ought to be expended for its advantage, and in the support of his high dignity, and this, let it be remarked *en passant*, most particularly in Ireland; the contrary is however too often the case, the prelates in that country frequently neglecting their diocese, and considering it only, what they snugly term, a good thing, by which money may be amassed.

Monsieur Le Clerc was succeeded in the prefecture by the Comte St. Olaire, of an antient noble family, near Périgueux. This gentleman was more hospitable than his predecessor, and I had the pleasure of dining with him several times. At one of these dinners, his father, the old Comte, was present, and greatly pleased

me by the perfect accomplishment of his manners, and the high respectability of his appearance. At this repast I sat next to the Princess Dowager of Nassau, mother to the prefect's beautiful wife, and who resided with the latter since the decline of her fortune by the conquests of the French.

During my stay at Bar I lodged at the Cygne, the host of which was a perfect picture of the landlord of an inn. His height about five feet, his breadth nearly the same, with a small head, short arms, and singularly good humoured countenance, happily qualified him to sit for the likeness of Boniface; besides, he possessed a vast fund of dry humour, and knew every thing and every body's history. His usual occupation was smoking on a stone bench at the inn door, and his answer to persons passing, who inquired, "*Comment* "*se porte Monsieur Taffalo?*" was,

"*Comme*

"*Comme vous voyez!*" Which certainly conveyed abundant information; for he was ruddy health and perfect contentment personified. He quickly discovered the dispositions of his guests, and would drink to the health of those whom he found liberal, vast quantities of his own wine at their expense. To myself and party he was peculiarly partial; for he sat with us, smoking, drinking, and telling entertaining stories, until six o'clock in the morning.

This nonpareil of a landlord accompanied us one day to visit Marshal Oudinot's (Duke of Reggio) domain, about one hundred and fifty yards from the town. The house, which seemed never to have been worthy of notice, was lately burnt down; but a large and interesting collection of antient arms, consisting of antique implements of offence and defence, bows and arrows, darts, guns, and armour, collected

from various parts of the world, were fortunately preserved. The domain which belongs to the house, though small, has been appropriated to the best advantage, and the gardens are laid out with taste.

The Duke of Reggio, in order to please his master and ruin Old England, almost ruined himself by speculations in the preparation of beet-root sugar. A large and handsome range of building was constructed for this manufacture; but when I saw it, the universal ill success of the undertaking had caused it to be entirely abandoned, and the Marshal had converted the edifice to a more rational and profitable purpose, it being now filled with fine cattle of the Dutch and Flanders breed, fattening on the beet-root planted to make sugar, for which it seems to be much better calculated, and is besides said to give the meat a delicious flavour.

As this species of rural economy seems to have much occupied the public attention of late, I shall beg leave to offer a statement as to its mode of cultivation in France for the purpose of fattening cattle, with this observation, that it is the *Beta vulgaris*, or red beet, that is used there.

Manner of cultivating the Beet-root.

Deep, soft, and damp land ought to be preferred. Calcareous land is preferable to argillaceous; nevertheless the latter is good when it has been enriched during a long time, and softened by repeated turning, taking care that the last takes place before winter. Land that is dug is preferable to that which is ploughed, and that which will grow hops is always good for this purpose. When the situation is well disposed, and the atmosphere is clear and

warm, in the months of April and May, you will rake your land the depth of two inches, making trenches at the distance of eighteen or twenty inches from each other, in which you drop your seed three or four inches from each other, but nearer, if you doubt the quality of it. As each grain of seed gives generally many plants, you must transplant them the distance of eighteen inches from each other, when you conceive them sufficiently strong.

If it should happen that your land is not prepared so as to commence sowing the beginning of spring, you may sow two acres in any land well adapted for the purpose; and instead of separating the plants eighteen inches, place them at six inches, and be not sparing of the seed. When they are in some measure grown, you will take care to separate them, so as to preserve a sufficient quantity to transplant, taking care in digging

ging them up to transplant them to another land in the beginning of May or June. The land destined to receive the plants should be prepared one or two days before you transplant. As soon as the plant has taken, or three weeks or a month after being transplanted, you must rake the land around them twice, particularly after a slight rain, or before.

Expense of Beet-root.

	Francs.
One hectare, or nearly an acre of land, proper for the plantation of beet-root, will cost for its cultivation	40
Twenty loads of dung, at four francs each - -	80
For plants or seeds - - - - - - -	10
For the different cultivation of the plants - -	15
For digging plants and bringing home - - -	15
Produce - - - - - -	160

An hectare, or nearly an acre, will contain thirty thousand plants; each plant ought to weigh, at least, two or three

 pounds,

pounds, which produces seventy thousand pounds, calculating each at two pounds and a half. To fatten oxen or feed cows, eighteen or twenty pounds for each beast, it is possible to feed ten cows during the year; but supposing you commence feeding your cattle on beet-root in the month of November until the month of May, it will be necessary to have eighteen or twenty cows to consume the produce of the said acre or hectare. The leaf which the plant produces will likewise feed pigs and cows. You may preserve them from the month of August until the frost commences; you will have sufficient for three months to feed ten cows and as many pigs. It is necessary when the cows feed on the leaves, to give them four or five pounds of hay per day.

With this provender the cow will give one-third more milk per day than when fed on twenty pounds of hay, and the milk

milk will preserve the same sweetness as in summer.

			Francs.
To feed twenty cows on hay seven months during winter, it will take eighty-four thousand pounds of hay, which is the produce of nine acres or hectares of meadow land, which you may esteem any common year at twenty francs the thousand pounds, which is a sum of s - - - -			1680
Instead of which the acre or hectare sown with beet-root, for the rent of the land -	180	Total	340
Expenses attending the cultivation -	160		
Difference			1340

The father of Marshal Oudinot was a *ci-devant* brewer at Bar, and the Marshal was himself bred to that trade. The former still resides at Bar, and does not arrogate any consideration from his rise; and the latter, although a *parvenu* of the revolution, bears a most excellent character. His military services have been distinguished, and his liberality is such, that though he might have amassed great riches in

in his various commands, and particularly in the Low Countries, he is said to be considerably in debt. He has received nineteen or twenty wounds, chiefly in the service of Buonaparte, yet has been latterly disgraced by him, for not doing *l'impossible*, when he commanded a corps of the army in the late campaign; and being ordered to attack a much superior force, his whole division was nearly annihilated. The effect of this unmerited treatment was such as to deprive him of his senses, and he arrived at Bar from the army in a melancholy state, from which it is feared he will never entirely recover. Such are the recompences to be expected from Napoleon for the most distinguished services.

At Bar is one of the establishments, latterly erected, called Dépôts of Mendicity, on the principle of our poor-houses. It is said

said that the labour of the persons received into it pays pays two-thirds of the expenses, and the other third is provided for by contributions laid on the town and neighbourhood. In the places where these dépôts have been established, no beggars are allowed. The regulations are such, that, if properly executed, the persons in them must be extremely comfortable.

During this tour we visited Dunmarsi, where there is an iron foundery and manufacture of pots, pans, and chimney tacks, belonging to Monsieur Vivaux, who resides in a handsome house with elegant gardens. This gentleman and his wife received us with the greatest hospitality, and their son-in-law, who was lieutenant of the Louveterie, accompanied us on a *partie de chasse*, which afforded good sport, as we killed four foxes, and saw a wolf and a roebuck, but not within shot.

We

We met another wolf on our return, which stopped close to us on the road, and after regarding us for some time, trotted on. These animals are extremely numerous in this part of the country, and considerable premiums are given for their heads, as was formerly done in England and Wales. In the winter they become extremely ferocious, and daring instances have occurred of their committing depredations even in the town of Bar. In the summer they are not much less dangerous, from the great numbers of them that run mad.

Soon after my return from this town, I was called on at Verdun by Monsieur Crochard, whom I have had so often occasion to mention in the preceding pages. He invited me to spend a few days at his residence, not far from Verdun, and to partake of a *partie de chasse* on St. Hubert's day; the

the patron Saint of the Chase. This I accepted, but the day being very wet and windy we had but little sport. The commandant and sous-préfet of Montmedy were invited to meet me, and I spent three very pleasant days in this society; some of whom were first-rate amateur musicians, so that we had evening concerts. On the day of my departure, the commandant pressed me to stay dinner with him, and as an inducement, recapitulated all the good things he had prepared for me. On my assuring him that my being at Verdun that day was indispensable, he said that, at all events, they should not be lost, and that we should have them for breakfast: they were accordingly served up; and certainly such a breakfast for five people has seldom been put on a table. In the centre was a two-thirds grown pig, roasted whole; at one end a roasted turkey-cock of prodigious

size,

size, and at the other a roasted hare, while cutlets, pasties, and a variety of made dishes, garnished the sides and corners. This was, however, only the first course, and the second was almost as substantial. The commandant seemed to think I could never eat enough, and was determined to fulfil the French expression, *il y avoit de quoi manger*. The outward appearance of the commandant was that of a hearty, open, good natured fellow; but such is the power of money over a Frenchman, that he was after my visit, accused and convicted of defrauding the miserable Spanish priests of a proportion of their wretched pittance, for which he was sentenced to be sent to the galleys for life.

Towards the end of October, the accounts of the military operations in the North and South were very satisfactory; and though the newspapers, as usual, pretended to make

make light of the disasters of the French; private accounts left us in no doubt of their extent, and at last the official document from Mayence appeared, which, as a companion to the 29th bulletin, I have preserved in the appendix. Shortly after, Napoleon again quitted his army, and went through Verdun *incognito* in the night.

Many detachments of the Russian and Austrian prisoners, taken in the battle of Dresden, passed through the town, and several of their officers dined with me. Among them was a Colonel of the Don Cossacks, who on being helped to one of the French dishes, made such grimaces, that perceiving he did not relish it, I made signs to him to send away his plate, and helped him to a solid wedge of fat bacon, at which he stroked down his stomach, and shewed all the marks of perfect satisfaction. I helped him again and again to pieces of the same

same dimensions, and he devoured a quantity of solid fat, that the stomach of nothing but a Cossack could support. I recollect being at Leghorn once with a detachment of the Russian army, when the chandlers were obliged to shut their shops, to prevent all their soap and candles being devoured by the Russian soldiers; and afterwards I had occasion to observe the same partiality for grease when I was for some time at Suwaroff's head quarters at Augsbourg.

One of these officers speaking French, I asked his opinion of the French troops? To which he replied by a sign that shewed he did not think much of them; "but," said he, "the cuirassiers at first puzzled us, by "the cuirass resisting our lances, which "difficulty we soon learned to obviate, for "when the cuirassier lifted his arm, we

"watched

" watched the moment, and struck him in " the armpit." This manœuvre he described with such gestures and animation, that I fancied I beheld him in the very act. He had a servant of a most singularly striking appearance, whom I shall never forget; his penetrating and intelligent eye traversed in all directions, while his countenance expressed an extraordinary mixture of ferocious courage and good nature, that no attempt, even of Guido himself, could delineate.

On the departure of these officers I hired a carriage to forward them on, and made each a present of a handsome pipe and a quantity of tobacco, besides supplying them with money on account of the government. My friend the Cossack pressed his pipe to his heart, saying he would keep it as an everlasting remembrance, and when dead,

it should be buried in his grave. In this his gratitude exceeded the intrinsic value of the gift; and, however melancholy the acknowledgment, it must be confessed that gratitude is a virtue rather to be met with in a people emerging from barbarism, than among those who have arrived at a high state of civilization.

Shortly after the head quarters of the grand army were established at Metz, and the sick and wounded were removed from Mayence, &c. towards Verdun and the interior. For six weeks the roads were crowded with waggons, and all the public buildings at Verdun were converted into hospitals. At the same time an hospital fever prevailed at Mayence, and was conveyed to Metz and Nancy, in which latter place Colonel de Bernière of the 9th regiment fell a victim to it, universally regretted. From thence

thence the disease spread to Verdun and the surrounding villages. So that it appeared as though the Almighty had visited the country with a scourge, in punishment for the calamities which France had inflicted on Europe for the last twenty-four years.

CHAPTER XLIV.

Verdun....Extraordinary visit....Disarming of the German troops....Evacuation of the dépôts of Metz, &c.....Quit Verdun.....Clermont..... Position of La Lune....French officers.

WHILE at Verdun I was once awoke in the dead of the night by a violent ringing of the bell and knocking at the hall door; on opening which, a tall fierce looking man with large mustachios, wrapped in a great cloak, and armed with a sabre and helmet, stalked in. Such an object at such a time may be conceived alarming. He pointed to the door and made signs with great solemnity, as wishing to speak to me in private. On conducting him into a room, he looked round carefully and then secured the door; and my alarm naturally increasing, I secured the poker as if to win the field,

field, but in fact as a weapon of defence. With increased solemnity he drew forth a letter, which on opening, I perceived to be in German, and informed him I could not read it. "Then (said he in French) I will "unravel the whole mystery. I am a Ger- "man officer in the French service, and "it being in my turn of duty at Mayence to "visit the prisoners, in one of the dun- "geons I found in chains the two officers "who have written you this letter.

"Captain Doebel and Lieutenant Mos- "que, of the Duke of Brunswick Oels "corps, being suspected of having acted "as officers in Schill's insurrection in "Westphalia, have for several months "been treated with the most barbarous "cruelty, being confined in separate dun- "geons, and with chains whose links are "so heavy, that it is with difficulty they "can move in their narrow cells, and

" which have worn their legs and arms to
" the bone; they are nearly naked, and
" have scarcely a sufficiency of bread and
" water to preserve their existence, as if
" the only intention was to prolong their
" misery. Having by some accident heard
" of your lordship as being senior officer
" of the British, and acting with the au-
" thority of your liberal government, they
" wrote to you, but concluded you never
" received their letter.

" As I am one of their fellow-countrymen,
" and compassionating their sufferings, I
" have, at the risk of my life, come hither
" from Mayence in their behalf. You will
" see the necessity of my thus visiting you
" secretly; for if it was known that I for-
" warded any communication between you
" and these officers, it would certainly be
" fatal to me, and might be very disagree-
" able to you."

On

On referring to the army list I found the names of these two officers in the Brunswick corps, in the pay of Great Britain. The stranger put me in the way of corresponding with Mayence, and I immediately sent them fifty louis, and from that time continued to pay them regularly their monthly subsistence. Money soon lightened their chains, and though still closely confined, they have been comparatively confortable. Nothing can equal their gratitude, as the reader will see by some of their letters, which he will find in the Appendix. I informed the Duke of Brunswick Oels of their situation, by letter, as well as that of some other officers of his corps, and received the most polite and friendly answer, inclosing the account of these officers with the agents, Messrs. Cox and Greenwood, by which it appeared that a considerable balance was due to them. Indeed, the interest

His Serene Highness expressed for these and other officers of his corps, prisoners, did infinite honour to the goodness of his heart, and shews his zeal for the welfare of his soldiers.

In consequence of the defection of the Princes of the Confederation of the Rhine from their self-constituted protector, the whole of the German troops, in the service of France, were ordered to be disarmed. A corps of the Grand Duke of Berg, stationed at Montmedy, however, refusing to lay down their arms, General de Malard, the commandant of the department, marched from Verdun with some cavalry, to enforce the execution of the order, which he succeeded in doing without violence, by dividing the corps and marching them different ways in small detachments. A number of them were brought thus disarmed into Verdun; and there being among their officers

officers several genteel looking men strolling on the parade before my house, I invited them in to take some wine and refreshment, for which they seemed extremely thankful. They were all most violent in their invectives against Napoleon, whom many of them had served for eight or nine years in constant activity of service: for they, as well as all foreign corps in general, were always placed in the most dangerous and fatiguing situations, in order to spare the French troops; they were also, in other respects, treated with the greatest harshness, and had a long arrear of pay due to them, which they had no hopes of ever recovering. One of the officers was so exasperated with his treatment, that he tore the *croix d'honneur* from his breast and threw it into the fire. Such are the rewards to be expected by those who enter the service of such a government.

The

The advance of the allied armies produced scenes of a nature more extraordinary than we had yet witnessed at Verdun; for many days and nights there was a continual passage of families running away from Metz, Nancy, and other places, in the same direction; and their flight was so precipitate, that, added to the extraordinary inclemency of the season, the situation of many of them was truly distressing. In one instance, I saw a mother and several children in a little cart drawn by a cow and a goat; and another, in which an ass and a large dog were yoked together. Shortly after, the town became the scene of the most complete confusion, in consequence of the sudden evacuation of the dépôts of the army, formed at Metz. Day and night the streets were filled with pieces of artillery, caissons, waggons loaded with soldiers' clothing and other military furniture, followed

lowed by small detachments of cavalry of different corps, whose horses, as well as the men, were worn down with sickness, fatigue and famine. In short, the whole presented the appearance of the miserable remains of a totally defeated army; and it seemed as if terror, famine, and all their concomitant associates, were now about to finish those who had escaped from the sword.

While contemplating this scene of confusion and misery, we received an order to quit Verdun immediately and prepare to march to Blois, which produced a confusion and distress little inferior to that of our enemies. Having been until the last moment assured that there was no necessity for the removal of the dépôt, few were prepared for the event; it may therefore be easily conceived, what was the situation of families, many of whom had been fixed at Verdun for ten or eleven years, and who,

by

by a long state of idleness had acquired indolent and sedentary habits, which rendered them as helpless as children; and, indeed, the appearance they made on the journey fully bespoke their imbecility, and their want of exertion and arrangement: besides, the scarcity of money was generally felt, and in many instances was the cause of the greatest distress. Those few who were more fortunate were therefore obliged to assist others; and my feelings so entirely overcame my prudence, that I left myself without sufficient funds to finish my journey, and was obliged to borrow on the road.

On the 12th of January 1814, the first division of our countrymen quitted Verdun; it was composed of midshipmen, masters of merchant vessels, and others of inferior classes. The midshipmen, above all, presented a singular and not unmeaning sight, from the *bizarrerie* of their costumes

tumes and equipage, which gave to the scene more the appearance of a masquerade than a march. These young gentlemen, to use one of their own phrases, "were up to every thing;" and such seemed to be the partiality of the *beau sexe* for them, that few were without a French female companion, many of whom had made a greater progress in *plain English* than I could have supposed; having perfectly at command the choicest selection of sailors' oaths and cant sayings, which they applied in the slang stile, and with a tone and manner as if they had received their education at the back of the Point at Portsmouth. All the minor *bourgeois* of the town crowded together at the gate, to take leave of their English friends, and many of them to make a last attempt at recovering the money due to them by the young prisoners. Few, however, if any, were the

the instances of success; for several of those who had any money, contented themselves with letting their creditors look at it, merely to tantalize them, and, returning it into their pockets, told them, "they would "be paid by the Cossacks!" Indeed I am sorry to be obliged to observe, that the non-payment of the most just debts, so far from being considered as dishonourable, both to the individuals and the national character, was almost deemed meritorious; and the general expression for it was softened down to that of "distressing the "enemy."

On the 13th, the second division, consisting of officers and families, left Verdun. My equipage consisted of a handsome dog-cart, drawn by two excellent Norman horses, which was much admired on the road, particularly by the French. Besides my clothes, this conveyance carried all my comforts,

comforts, consisting of four dozen bottles of choice wine, and provisions for a week, so that I was entirely independent of inns, except for a bed. As I preferred riding, and having lent a spare horse to a friend to accompany me, I put my servants into the dog-cart, and we set off in a most intense frost. On our arrival at Clermont, we found all the auberges so full, that it was impossible to obtain any kind of accommodation, and were obliged to have recourse to an old woman and her family, with whom I had got acquainted in my former excursions to this town. Though the mansion of these good people was of the most humble kind, being constructed of wood and twigs, and the crevices filled up with mud; or, in other words, that kind of cottage which is intolerably hot in summer, and intensely cold in winter; we prepared to make the best of it, and having

with

with difficulty procured accommodation for the horses, and sent the servants to make them comfortable, my companion and myself set about preparing our supper. On opening the provision cupboard, I was agreeably surprised by the sight of two unexpected good things: a piece of finely marbled beef, which had been kept fifteen days for steaks, and which I now cut up dexterously for that purpose, and a delicate *poularde aux truffles—videlicet*, a fine fat capon stuffed with truffles. The want of a spit presented a difficulty, which was however soon removed, by means of a nail and string, which one of the old woman's daughters complaisantly offered to twist; so that having secured the poularde in a manner to prevent its bursting from the heat, and thus losing the truffles, my next care was to prepare a sauce for the steaks,

and

and having no oysters, I was obliged to be content with onion sauce. Having succeeded, *à merveille*, in dressing the steaks and poularde, with the addition of part of a wild boar's head from our own store, and some toasted cheese, washed down by a bottle of Madeira and two bottles of good Claret, my friend and I braved our hard fate, and composed ourselves till morning, when we resumed our journey.

In the course of the day we passed many broken down carriages of our countrymen, whose equipages were in general wretched. The road was strewed with dead horses belonging to the fugitives from Metz, many of whom had themselves perished, from the inclemency of the weather, which the previous fatigues of the German campaign had rendered them incapable of supporting. About a league and a half beyond

Clermont I stopped to take a more exact view of the position occupied by Arthur Dillon, which I have had occasion already to mention. In a military point of view, this position is immensely strong, occupying nearly to the summit of a steep and winding hill, and flanked to a considerable distance on each side by thick woods, and ground so abrupt and irregularly broken, as to appear the effect of some violent convulsion of nature. As this is the only practicable road for an army to approach Paris on this side, and as it is impossible to turn this position, from the nature of the country, its occupation would have been of wonderful importance to the Prussians in 1793, for by it they might have checked the success of the revolutionary army, and thereby have given confidence to the Royalists, and probably have arrested the progress of that convulsion, which has since produced

produced such unhappy changes and calamities to all Europe.*

Among the numerous groups of corps of fugitive cavalry I have already noticed, I observed several superior officers of hussars, who stopped their horses to admire my dog-cart; and one of them, an old colonel, seemed desirous to enter into conversation, by several times riding close up to me, and at last broke silence by praising the horse I was riding. I returned the compliment, at the same time adding, that the figure of the Arabian horse on which he was mounted was familiar to me. On farther inquiry, the old colonel and another officer perfectly recollected me at Madrid,

* The Allies have seemed to be aware of the easy defence of this position, and have accordingly avoided it, and followed the route by Bar sur Ornain to Chalons.

and expressed their joy at our rencontre. The former then gave me the history of his own and his horse's adventures since that time, informing me that the animal had carried him during the whole of the campaigns through Germany to Moscow, and was now the only survivor of his stud, from the fatigues and inclemency of weather to which they had been exposed in their disastrous retreat. We then spoke of the war in Spain, and I derived no small degree of internal satisfaction, from the handsome manner in which these officers spoke of the loyal, generous, and gallant conduct of the English troops in the Peninsula. Indeed I must observe, in justice to the French officers whom I have latterly met, that in this respect they are candid, and do ample justice to the merit and conduct of Lord Wellington and his army.

The old colonel observed, that he and one

one of the other officers in company had now been in constant active service for twenty-four years, and that at present the successes or reverses of their arms were equally indifferent to them, as the former produced neither individual advantage nor national utility; " thus," concluded the veteran, " I am heartily tired of it, " and am now going to a dépôt for a re- " mount, in which I shall endeavour to " create as much delay as possible, in " order to avoid the rest of the winter's " campaign." Thus it appears a total change of sentiment has taken place in the French army, and those persons, who at the beginning of the campaign were enflamed by military ardour, and boasting of their exploits past and to come, now think there is equal merit in devising the means of escaping from " the pomp, pride, and " circumstance of glorious war;" or more

familiarly speaking, of evading their duty. How great, and how worthy of admiration, is the contrast between Old England and France during the course of this war! We may indeed say with perfect truth, what Napoleon has most falsely asserted: "we "have never been too much elated by suc- "cess, nor ever despondent in misfortune."

Having rode some distance at a very sharp rate, and stopping at an inn, I found my new acquaintance, like most Frenchmen, beginning to grow tiresome, by their fulsome compliments. I therefore took the opportunity of quitting them, and proceeded to Chalons, which I reached toward the close of the evening; and found it crowded with troops and carriages of all descriptions, and proceeding in every direction: an inconvenience to which Chalons was necessarily subject, from its central situation, and the many roads all leading to the same point.

CHAPTER XLV.

Chalons.... French officers' abuse of Napoleon.... French neglect of their horses .... Triumphal arch .... Epernay.... Champagne cellars....Château-Thierry....Ferté..... Meaux..... Château of the Prince de Conti.... General Latour Maubourg.

At Chalons I put up at the Ville de Metz, the same inn I was at in my journey to Verdun; but the house being now crowded, I found a great difference in the accommodation, though the landlord and his wife made every exertion to render me comfortable. Observing two fine capons on the spit, I bespoke one of them for my dinner; and while it was roasting, I entered into conversation with some genteel and well informed officers of hussars, and

some gardes d'honneur, who were in the kitchen. They were all unreserved in their violent abuse of Napoleon, and it almost seemed as if they had ransacked the dictionary for abusive words, to select those most forcibly expressive of their detestation. Yet this is merely *vox et preterea nihil,* for no Frenchman has spirit to act alone; and any combination, however secret, is extremely difficult, from the rigorous laws imposed on society and the vigilance of the police, as well as from the total want of confidence between members of the same family.

In the morning I accompanied an hussar, a very tall and bluntly honest officer, to the stables, in which there was the greatest confusion with the soldiers looking for their respective horses; for though it may seem strange, it is no less the fact, that the horses, instead of having been

been tied up, groomed, and fed, as is the usual manner with us, were indiscriminately turned loose into the stable. On expressing my surprise at this neglect to the hussar officer, "*bah*," replied he, "the case "is the same throughout the whole French "army." This in some measure accounts for the bad condition of the horses in the French cavalry. "But, *diable*," said the hussar in continuation, "it is time I should "look for one of mine;" which he at last found out; and, noticing his age and points, told me he had picked him up on the road, and mounted him without ceremony; adding that he intended to sell him to the first farmer who would give him a price, and then get another in the same manner: "*parceque*," said he, "*notre solde est tou-*"*jours en arrière; et cependant il faut vivre.*"

Quitting Chalons, we found it almost impossible to make our way through the streets

streets for artillery, caissons, troops of all descriptions, and Spanish and Austrian prisoners changing dépôts. At last we were under the necessity of falling into the line of a chain of guns and artillery furniture, all entirely new from the arsenal of Metz. We crossed the Marne by a handsome stone bridge, near which we observed a magnificent triumphal arch, erected in honour of Napoleon two or three years since. This object could not fail calling up reflections on the change in his affairs, as well as in the destinies of France and of Europe in general, since its erection. Instead of destroying such trophies, they should be allowed to exist, as monuments of the folly, ambition, and vanity of the man, and to serve as useful lessons to princes, not wantonly or hastily to plunge their subjects into war. In contemplating these memorials of the military successes of Napoleon, it is impossible

impossible not to reflect to what a height of power he might have arisen, had his ambition known where to stop; and to what a pre-eminence of greatness he might have raised France, had he known or consulted the real interests of his subjects. But, happily, there is a superintending Providence that governs and regulates all things, and exactly compensates good and evil. The history of mankind seems to prove, that war is more congenial to the human race than peace; and doubtless this principle is implanted in us by Providence, in order to prevent the too great multiplication of the species; of the evil of which there is a sufficient proof in China, where the superabundant population not only produces frequent famines, but also in its consequences stifles the first affections of the heart; causing parents, without pity or remorse, to expose their infant offspring.

But

But supposing Europe to be now arrived at nearly the degree of population proper for its well being, it seems evident that wars, instead of decreasing will increase, in order to preserve stationary this degree of population, by counteracting the causes which now tend to the multiplication of the species more rapidly than in former times. Among these the two most powerful are the discovery of the Vaccine, which saves the lives of millions, and the abolition or diminution of monastic orders throughout Europe. In France, in particular, these two causes have operated most powerfully, and we have seen that the excess of her population has been only employed to disturb her neighbours. The person, however, at the head of the French government, has left nothing undone towards preventing a redundancy of people, and in this respect his efforts have been

been eminently successful; for supposing, on a moderate estimate, that he has been the cause of the death of five millions of Frenchmen, and that, one with another, each of these men would have been destined to be the father of one child, it is evident that Napoleon has effected a diminution of ten millions of souls in France alone.

At Chalons I met Monsieur de Meulan, the commandant of the dépôt, from whom I learnt that our route was changed, and that, instead of going by Château-Thierry and Meaux, we were now to proceed by Arcis, Troyes, and Sens, to Orleans. As I wished to avoid the crowd, I determined on pursuing the first route, and accordingly turned off to the right for Epernay, where I soon arrived, the road being excellent and free from impediments. The stables in the town were however so crowded,

crowded, that I could not find a place for my horses, and was obliged to have recourse to Mr. Mowhil, the great Champagne merchant, whose family (he being absent) received me in the most flattering manner, and ordered a stable and *remise* to be appropriated to my horses and carriage. Mr. Mowhil soon appeared, and pressed me to dine with him, which I was obliged to decline, having invited some English acquaintance I had met on the road to partake of a dinner with me at the inn. Mr. Mowhil however insisted on my accepting some bottles of his Sillery Champagne, and accordingly sent half a dozen, with the ice necessary to do justice to this delicious wine, which differs from many other species of Champagne in not frothing; but on the contrary being perfectly still, with a slightly bitterish flavour, which makes it a fine stomachic, and very wholesome.

wholesome. The estate which produces this wine is now the property of General Valence, a senator and general of division, who got it by his marriage with the celebrated Madame de Genlis, *ci-devant* wife to the Marquis de Sillery. General Valence is noted for having quitted the army at the same time with Dumourier and the Duke d'Orleans, the infamous *Egalité*. Madame de Genlis at present resides at Romanville, near Paris, and still makes a conspicuous figure in the literary world. The estate of Sillery is rented by Mr. Mowhil, and its whole produce conveyed to his cellars, which are of surprising extent, forming a number of subterraneous apartments cut out of a chalky substance, and resembling a little world under ground. The quantity of wine in wood and bottle is immense, and from hence most of the inferior merchants of France are supplied,

who

who however so generally adulterate it, that it is very difficult to procure the genuine Sillery except from Mr. Mowhil himself. This gentleman also supplies the Imperial table, and the fame of his cellars once roused the phlegmatic disposition of Napoleon himself so far, as to induce him to go from Paris expressly to visit them in 1810, an honour which is commemorated by an inscription, in large characters, in one of the vaults.

The engaging politeness of Mr. Mowhil and his amiable family led me to fear giving them offence, by having declined either dining or accepting a bed at their house. I therefore promised to breakfast with them the following morning, when I partook of an excellent repast, *à la fourchette*, at which the most delicious Champagne was introduced in perfection. When sufficiently iced, it was wheeled into the

room on a little carriage constructed for the purpose. Mr. Mowhil assured me that the wine was so delicate, that the difference of five minutes more or less remaining in the ice would cause a sensible difference to the palate. On my departure, my kind host insisted on putting a dozen bottles of the vintage of 1798 into the carriage; and though I resisted for some time, I found it impossible to refuse the favour. Taking leave of this engaging and worthy family, at four o'clock I set out for Château-Thierry, where I did not arrive until half past eight, the distance being twelve leagues over a hilly country. The town I found so full of troops, that I with difficulty procured very indifferent accommodation, and a bad supper, at an inn. In the morning, after an uncomfortable night, I strolled through the town, which is insignificant, with narrow streets, and irregularly

 built;

built; but the Marne is here crossed by a handsome stone bridge, and on its bank is a good promenade. The town has its name from an antient château built I believe by Charles the Ninth. In recent times it has been possessed by the Princes of Bouillon, the last of whom dying without issue, bequeathed his estates and title to Philip d'Auvergne, an admiral in the British service, and commanding at Guernsey. This bequest was declared valid by the King of France, and Mr. d'Auvergne took the title of Prince de Bouillon with the sanction of the British government; but the revolution deprived him both of the estates and title, and Château-Thierry now forms a part of the imperial domain, as well as Navarre, one of the finest estates in France, which also belonged to the House of Bouillon, but which is now the residence of the Empress Josephine.

From

From Château-Thierry I pursued my journey, over a very hilly country, to Ferté sous Jouarre, a wretched, dull and nasty town, situated in a hollow, with narrow streets, abominable inns, and, in short, nothing to recommend it. Here, however, I was prevailed on to pass the day, by my particular friend, Lord Boyle, eldest son of the Earl of Glasgow, and whose hospitality and kindness could alone have induced me to stop a single hour in this detestable place, where a five minutes walk is sufficient to render one as dirty as a whole day's snipe-shooting in the bogs of Ireland.*

From La Ferté I proceeded by an excellent road to Meaux, a town I have already

 had

* For my former visit to La Ferté, see p. 141 of this volume.

had occasion to notice,* and from thence (it being forbidden to the English to enter Paris, and a strict look-out being kept by the police in this respect) by a very bad cross road, chiefly through a forest, to Melun. On the left we passed a most magnificent palace, formerly belonging to the Prince de Conti. The woods of the domain are cut in numerous strait avenues, forming beautiful rides, as well as for the chase in former times, to which the last Prince was greatly attached, and particularly noticed for his uncommonly fine breed

* Since writing this, Meaux and the other parts of the country I passed through, have been the theatre of war; and Epernay, in particular, has been alternately in the hands of friends and enemies, whence it is to be feared it has suffered, which would give me the greatest concern, as most probably the interesting and worthy family of Mr. Mowhil has not escaped the general disaster.

breed of wolf hounds. As I learnt here, the wolf is infinitely more swift than the fox, and as he runs directly ahead, the dogs would have little chance with him in a fair chase; hence the Prince had dexterous chasseurs, who wounded the animal so slightly as only to impede his running to a certain degree, and thus reduce him to an equality with the dogs. Under these circumstances, wolf-hunting is said to be excellent sport.

I could not but feel concern at the deserted and neglected state of this noble mansion and its domain. Nothing, indeed, can convey a stronger proof of the contrast between France before the revolution and at this day, than the sight of such numerous princely mansions mouldering into decay.

Late in the evening I arrived at Melun, which I found so crowded by the levy of the national guards and by troops passing

to join the armies, that I with difficulty procured accommodation; yet, though my fare was not sumptuous, as the people were civil, I contented myself for the night.

In the morning I visited my old acquaintance, Sir Thomas Lavie, who had been made prisoner some years ago, by the wreck of the Blanche, near Cherbourg. His character as a naval officer had been established by the capture of La Guerrière, a frigate of much superior force to the Blanche, which he then commanded, and for which he was knighted, being the first naval action under Lord Grey's administration.

Sir Thomas Lavie's residence was adjoining that of the celebrated cavalry General, Latour Maubourg, who lost a leg in the last campaign in Germany; in consequence of which he had retired to this small country seat, in which there is nothing very striking,

striking, but apparently a good deal of comfort. I was gratified by the sight of the General as he was taking the air on the steps before his door. His appearance was, as he had been represented, soldier-like, with the remains of a very fine person. He is of a *ci-devant* noble family of great consequence, but imbibed strong jacobinical principles, which were still more inflamed by a personal dislike of the late Queen Marie Antoinette, who had given him some cause of offence.

From Melun I proceeded to Fontainbleau; I put up at the Dolphin, a very good hotel, where the people were civil, my dinner comfortable, and the wines good. The landlady and her daughters were in tears, from the son, the chief support of the house, having been just called out to march with the national guards, to join the army as a private soldier. The young man,

while tossing the frying pan, observed to me, " *Monsieur, voilà mon métier;* this is " the trade to which I have been bred, and " now I am obliged to become a soldier, " for which I am not at all calculated, and " of whose duties I am totally ignorant."

The next morning I was waited on by my old acquaintance, Monsieur Larminat, who was in mourning for his father, the worthy old gentleman who acted with me as one of the stewards for the balls at Verdun. As M. Larminat held the respectable situation of inspector of the Imperial forest of Fontainbleau, he had the politeness to conduct me over the demesne, and pointed out, with much satisfaction, some improvements of his own in the forest. The strait walks were still preserved, as they should be in so antient a place, for they mark the character of the age; and it would be as equally contrary to good taste to

alter

alter them, as it would be to add a wing of Grecian architecture to the body of a Gothic edifice. By clearing away the wood on the summit of a sudden rise, M. Larminat has opened a magnificent and extensive view over a great part of the forest and neighbouring country, including the town and palace. Beyond the limits of the forest, the country is chiefly under vines, for which species of agriculture, its sandy soil is best calculated. The very small quantity of waste land must forcibly strike a traveller in passing through most parts of France, and proceeds from the soils which are most ungrateful in other respects being proper for the production of the finest grapes, and accordingly covered with rich vineyards. Thus the lands of a nature to remain eternally waste in England from the climate, are in France a mine of wealth, owing to the extreme munificence

nificence of the Almighty to a most ungrateful people.

The forest of Fontainbleau contains, according to the statistical description, twenty-six thousand four hundred and sixty-two arpents,* chiefly of oak; which is however of a very inferior quality, owing, it is said, to the nature of the soil, and is therefore never used in ship-building.

After our promenade in the forest, I visisted the palace, or, as it is called, the château, of which the external appearance is far from grand; nevertheless its antiquity and a certain melancholy semblance renders it respectable. We were shewed over it by an ancient Swiss, whose conduct and manners had imposed on the revolutionary barbarians, and caused them to respect the château, which only received some trifling damages,

* An arpent is rather more than an English acre.

damages, that have been in a great measure repaired by Napoleon. The first apartment we entered is nearly a square, with a well-painted ceiling, executed, as well as the other ornaments, in the time of Henry II. One of the walls is almost entirely covered by a very fine representation of the Battle of the Pyramids, painted by Eukin. The second apartment shewn us is called that of St. Louis, from which we entered a *salle à manger*, richly but heavily ornamented, under the direction of Francis the First. The ceiling represents the history of Trajan and Cavillea. In another apartment is a modern clock, placed on a large marble table, which denotes the various changes of the moon.

We next entered a gallery, two hundred feet long by twenty wide, the windows of which look into a small but extremely neat garden, with very handsome *jets d'eau*, and

and fountains in marble, the whole laid out and constructed under the immediate direction of Napoleon. In the centre of the apartment, called la Chambre de l'Empereur, is a round table, about three feet and a half in diameter, entirely of a single piece of Seve porcelain, and some very large and valuable vases of the same manufacture. Adjoining this apartment is a bedchamber, so magnificently fitted up, that I should suppose a person unaccustomed to such splendour must sleep most uncomfortably in it. The tapestry and curtains are the chef d'œuvre of silk and embroidery, from the Lyons manufactures.

The Salle de Trône is a large square apartment, handsomely ornamented, the ceiling painted in the time of Louis XIV. This was the favourite bedroom of Louis XVI. and not far from it is the boudoir of Marie Antoinette, now the dressing-room

of

of Marie Louise, and which is only shewn by particular favour. The furniture is the same as used by the unfortunate Queen, and as much taste and expense has been bestowed on it as the dimensions of the room would admit. The Turkish sofa, in particular, is in the extreme of Eastern splendour. Near this was the council chamber of Louis XVI.

We were next shewn into a handsome gallery, ornamented in the time of Francis I. At the upper end is the bust of Henry IV. and along the sides, where it is probable were formerly placed those of the Kings and Queens of France, are now seen those of Napoleon's generals, who have fallen in the field or died in his service; such as Dessaix, Kleber, &c. The busts of Marlborough, Frederick the Great, and Washington, also occupy places in this gallery amongst the great captains of France.

This

This seeming candour is, however, probably a more refined vanity, by which Napoleon thinks to impose on the world, in making it believe that merit alone, to whatever nation it may belong, is worthy of a place in his gallery. Here were also alternately placed representations of Napoleon's various battles, and views of Mount St. Bernard, and of all the spots in Italy marked by any military event, with explanations under them; and certainly, if we separate the character of Buonaparte from these representations and pictures, they have great merit, and are well worthy of observation.

The Pope at this time occupied apartments in the château, and I saw and saluted several Cardinals who were attached to his Holiness. The servants who waited on him all wore the Emperor's

ror's livery. I was assured that he was regularly asked every day if he wished to ride out and take the air? but his invariable answer was, "No, I never desire "to enter a carriage, except to depart for "Rome."

Monsieur Larminat did me the favour to dine with me. In the evening I received several visits, and next day, rather late, resumed my journey, by a considerable portion of bad roads, to Pithiviers, where my accommodation was very uncomfortable, and the charges so exorbitant, that I told the landlord he must surely be out of his senses, and that I would neither enter into the details of his bill nor pay him any thing; and at the same time I ordered the carriage to proceed. "But, "Monsieur," said he, "what will you pay "me?"—"Nothing," replied I.—"But, "Mon-

" Monsieur, that is very strange."—" Per-
" haps so; but had you been any thing
" like reasonable, I should have examined
" your charges, and paid you what was
" just."—" Then will Monsieur think so
" and so too much?" reducing the sum at one blow to half its original amount. " Reduce it one third more," said I, " and " I may talk to you." Finding he could make no better of it, he consented to receive one third; and I was about to depart, when I was accosted by a handsome and neatly dressed young woman, who told me, with modest simplicity, that she had been but a very short time married to a captain in the Imperial guard, when he received orders to join his corps in Russia, where she understood he had been wounded and made prisoner; " and, Sir," continued she, " I have heard so much of the

" generosity

" generosity of the English character, and " of their extensive correspondence and " communication with all parts of the " world, that I have presumed to solicit " the favour of your forwarding a letter " to Russia." To such a modest request, made in so amiable a manner, and by so interesting an object, I replied, " that " her appearance, language, and manners, were such as to ensure a favourable answer to any demand she " could make, and that I would certainly " most cheerfully forward her letter through " England; that though there was a moral certainty of its reaching her husband, yet I could not promise her an answer, which, doubtless, must be the " most anxious of her wishes; but at " all events that her letter should be " forwarded, and the answer must take

" its chance; therefore," continued I, "if, " Madame, you will have the goodness to " write your letter, I will wait for it."—"Oh, " Sir," she replied, " that is already done, " and I will bring it you in a moment;" which she accordingly did, and I pursued my journey.

CHAPTER XLVI.

Rencontre with a Russian officer....Orleans....A French acquaintance....National guards and levée en masse ...Pope and Cardinals....Neglect and insult to them by France and Napoleon.

At the moment of quitting Pithiviers I was accosted by my name, in very good English, by a Russian officer, whose face was quite familiar to me, and I soon recollected having met him at the Duke of Sussex's in Lisbon, where he was secretary to the Russian embassy. The road being slippery from the frost, this gentleman walked with me out of the town, and we mutually brought to our recollection several anec-

dotes which were talked of while we were at the Portuguese capital. Our conversation then turned on the positions of the several armies, and the probable termination of the present important contest. His judgment was sound, and, like all his countrymen, he was warm in the cause, and sanguine as to its success. I observed to him, "that a favourable result entirely depended on the perfect unanimity of the Allies; but it was to be apprehended that discord and disunion might arise amongst so many powers, whose views and characters were so opposite."—"Some time ago," replied the Russian, "this might have been feared; but twenty-four years experience must have taught them a lesson, and convinced them of the boundless ambition and deceit of the man at the head of the French government; therefore

" therefore they must at this moment be
" united by one sole object; namely, the
" destruction of the tyrant and of the sa-
" tellites who have been his instruments
" in desolating Europe, and in reducing
" France to a state of ruin, from which
" she cannot recover for years to come."—
" Nevertheless," replied I (wishing to continue the argument in hopes of obtaining information), " I fear that the greater part
" of the people of France will still remain
" devoted to their destroyer, rather than
" risk the horrors of another revolu-
" tion. Besides, all the leading persons
" throughout France, from the *bonne ville*
" *de Paris* to the most insignificant village,
" are in the dependence of the govern-
" ment; such, for instance, are the maires
" and their adjoints, the commissaires and
" other myrmidons of the police, the le-
" gions of custom-house officers, gardes-

" forêts, gardes champêtres, &c., all of " whom act in concert with the govern- " ment, and at the same time form an " organized system of espionnage, which " prevents any combination of the lower " orders. The Allies will therefore be " greatly disappointed if they expect as- " sistance from the people; and I sin- " cerely hope they have entered France " with a sufficient force to counterbalance " the influence of the various authorities."

—" *Soyez tranquille,*" replied the Russian, " the French have so entirely lost their " national character, that they will join " the strongest party; and if we gain " some decided advantages in the field, " these authorities will be the first to abuse " Napoleon and execrate his government; " but if, on the contrary, he should be " occasionally successful in attacking se- " parate corps, or detachments, by large forces,

" forces, these same wretches will regain
" their courage, and enthusiastically praise
" the same men and the same government
" that they the moment before abused as
" tyrannical and oppressive." I agreed perfectly with these sentiments, the justice of which has been demonstrated by the fluctuation of opinion and language among the French of all classes, according to the turns of the war, since their country has been invaded, and their dearest interests threatened with the most imminent danger. The people of England, I most sincerely hope, will never be put to so severe a trial; if they were, their line of conduct would doubtless be very different.

I learnt from my companion, that he had been employed confidentially by the Russian government at Paris, previous to the commencement of hostilities; but that some suspicion attaching to him, he had been ar-

rested, his papers seized, and himself made a prisoner of state.

Having taken my leave of him, I proceeded by a very bad road and wretched country to Orleans; on entering which I met with Mr. Thompson, who procured me comfortable accommodation at a hotel, and also invited me to dinner, where I met a large party of English on their route for Blois. Mrs. Thompson and family being kindly attentive, we passed a pleasant evening in relating our various adventures on the road. On returning to the hotel I found a fat good-natured French merchant, a Monsieur Consurge, whom I had formerly known. He had been waiting for me three hours, and politely told me, that understanding I was going to Blois, where possibly I might not be acquainted, he had written some letters of recommendation for me, which he trusted I would find useful.

I thanked

I thanked him for his kind attention, and we supped together. In the course of conversation he informed me, that since I had last seen him he had been very unfortunate in his affairs, and obliged to declare himself a bankrupt. I seized the occasion to comfort him, in return for his politeness, by remarking that, "though, Sir, you "may have lost your money, which, as "Shakespeare says,

....." is trash; 'tis something, nothing;
" 'Twas mine, 'tis his, and has been slave to thousands;

"yet you have preserved what is infinitely "more valuable, an open, friendly-hearted, "good disposition; and, Sir, a

....." good name, in man and woman,
" Is the immediate jewel of their souls."

I was afterwards very glad to learn, that he was still enabled to continue business.

The following day I remained at Orleans and was highly amused by the exhibition of the national guards and *levée en masse*, which

which were now organizing, and one third of them ordered to be immediately armed. To comply with this order, fowling pieces that had hung for centuries over chimnies, were now brought forward; some without locks, and others of which the locks were so rusty and out of repair, as to be totally unserviceable. The number of these arms not being sufficient, different articles were given to different persons; one having a musquet, a second the bayonet, and a third the ramrod. The other two thirds of this motley group were armed with sticks, broken shovels or broken pitchforks, for their patriotism was not strong enough to induce them to bring forward any implement that was serviceable or useful in the farms. After being mustered by their names with great ceremony, an old drunken drummer, with a ragged coat, a cocked-hat, wooden shoes, and a broken drum, was placed at their head, and they were march-

ed

ed off. What with their broad brimmed hats and sabots, their ragged clothing, and their own natural deformities, they presented so ludicrous a scene, that if Napoleon had studied to bring complete ridicule on the great nation, he could not have chosen a more suitable expedient. . . . . .

While walking on the bridge, a carriage with six grey post-horses, and two others with four horses each, crossed it. On inquiry, I found that it was the Pope, Cardinals, and his suite, who had been hastily removed from Fontainbleau. A great crowd followed the carriage; and as the postillions walked their horses slowly up the ascent of the bridge, I had the satisfaction of a perfect sight of his holiness. His countenance is small, pale and mild; and the pictures of him that I have seen in France and England are sufficient resemblances to give an exact idea of him. He was drest in ermine, as he

he is also usually represented in prints. The crowd fell on their knees to receive his blessing, which he bestowed in so kind and benevolent a way, as made an impression on me I can never forget; and I have his countenance and manner at this moment before me. I was assured, that no provision having been made for his holiness's reception at Pithiviers, where he was to sleep the night before his arrival at Orleans, and the inns being crowded by French officers, he and his Cardinals would have been without beds, had not some of the English passing through the town given up those they had engaged, which it was not without difficulty the Pope could be prevailed on to accept: such is the modesty of this worthy Prelate and his Cardinals. The not giving proper orders for the accommodation of his holiness in his journey, was either a most scandalous neglect on the part

of

of the French government, or else an intended insult to fallen majesty; of which it is to be hoped, of all the nations, and all the monarchs of Europe, France and Napoleon could alone be guilty.

After enjoying an hospitable dinner with my friend Major Popham, at Orleans, I set out next day, and arrived at Blois early the following morning. On the road I passed several pieces of artillery, and waggons of military furniture, proceeding to Paris.

CHAPTER XLVII.

Blois....Lodgings....Provisions....Passage of Prisoners....Russian general....Spanish grandee....Hospital....French military reports....Quit Blois....General Binard....Château of Chenonceau.

THE sudden influx of above a thousand persons, all of certain pretensions, into a town like Blois, containing only twelve thousand inhabitants, and where there had not been time sufficient to prepare for the reception of so many visitors, rendered, as may be supposed, the procuring lodgings extremely difficult; and besides those who had apartments to let, taking advantage of the moment, demanded such exorbitant prices, as could be afforded only by very few of the prisoners; such, for instance, as one hundred and fifty francs a month

month for two miserably furnished bedrooms on a second floor, to which the access was by an abominable filthy corkscrew staircase, without a ray of light. Indeed, the general idea of the French that the English are made of money, and that they squander it like prodigals without thought, was particularly exemplified at Blois. The price of all articles which were not strictly limited by a tarif, such as butcher's meat and bread, immediately rose fifty per cent.: which, however, was little felt by the prisoners, who had already been used to pay dearer for them at Verdun. A large turkey, which at Verdun would have cost five or six francs, was sold at Blois for three, or three livres ten sous; salmon, fresh from the Loire, for thirty sous the pound; the established price of the best butchers' meat, was nine sous the pound. In short, the article of lodgings excepted,

excepted, the English had no reason to complain of the change from Verdun.

During our stay at Blois, the town was constantly crowded by prisoners of war of all nations, changing dépôts according to the movements of the Allied armies. Many of them were in the most miserable condition, from fatigue; from the intense inclemency of the weather, without clothing or shoes; and above all, from hunger, being often for many days together without receiving any victuals whatever from the French government. Numbers sunk on the march under their complicated calamities, and perished miserably in the ditches, while others lost their fingers and toes by the frost, and were rendered cripples for life. The number of English soldiers were so great, that it was with much difficulty I could procure sufficient money to relieve them; and I am with much concern obliged to remark,

remark, that in too many instances that relief was badly bestowed. The money instead of being expended for necessaries, being often squandered in drink, which caused so many excesses, that the commandant of the town declared that a hundred English prisoners caused him more trouble than a thousand of any other nation. It is however but justice to observe, that this bad conduct was principally observed in the prisoners from Sarre Libre, the greater part of whom were vagabonds who had entered the French service, from which they had been sent back on account of their unruly and turbulent characters, and on finding that nothing advantageous could be made of them. In general, the prisoners from the other dépôts conducted themselves well, and more particularly those from Valenciennes.

Blois being at this time the thoroughfare

for prisoners of war of all nations, I here received a visit from the Russian General Toutchacoff, with whom I had formerly some correspondence at Metz, and who now thanked me for the services and attentions I had paid to his countrymen in passing through Verdun. In answer to which, I observed, " that both my duty and incli-
" nation led me to render every service in
" my power to the officers of his nation;
" and that besides the self-satisfaction of
" being useful to them, I had the additional
" one of knowing that I anticipated the
" wishes of the British government, and
" gratified the general feeling of the Eng-
" lish nation towards Russia, which had
" made such sacrifices, and stood forward
" so nobly in the general cause of Europe
" against Napoleon." This compliment was received by a bow, and an air of pleasure; and the General continued to converse

converse with a lively communicativeness, which as far as I have been able to observe, characterizes the Russians of any education; indeed, they seem in general to possess much animation, and to be enthusiastic in executing whatever they undertake. Besides prisoners of war, several state prisoners passed through Blois; and amongst them I had the opportunity of conversing with a Spanish nobleman, who had formerly been ambassador at Rome and other courts.

The constant passage of English prisoners obliged me to pay frequent visits to the commandant of the department, and other authorities, from whom I experienced every civility; the commandant, in particular, was a polite gentlemanlike officer, who had been disabled for active service by a severe wound received in Spain. I had also occasion to become acquainted with Monsieur

Le Fevre, the Receiver-General, whom I one day accompanied, at his request, and with several of the principal inhabitants, to visit the city hospital, in which they greatly prided themselves; it being superintended and partly supported by the voluntary exertions and contributions of the town's people. The building had been formerly a Benedictine convent, consisting of a vast square, with a very extensive garden, well stocked with vegetables and medicinal plants. The monks' cells have been thrown open by an arch in each, so as to be at all times perfectly aired, and in each is a bed; the established number of which was one hundred and eighty, but were now augmented to three hundred and sixty; the refectory, and other apartments, having also rows of beds placed in them. The internal services of the hospital are performed by a superintending *sœur de*

la charité and several subordinate ones. The neatness and cleanliness of these pious old ladies' dress; their orderly conduct, and the excellent arrangements and good management of the hospital in general, could not fail of affording me the greatest satisfaction; which was increased by observing many English prisoners treated with the same tenderness and attention as their own sick and wounded countrymen, and who expressed their gratitude for the kindness of the respectable sisters.

At the moment that most of the English had formed as comfortable establishments as their circumstances would admit in Blois and the surrounding country, and were beginning to reconcile themselves to change of dépôt, calculating that the superiority of the climate and the beautiful scenery of the banks of the Loire would, in the spring and summer, compensate for the

disadvantages of the town, they received orders for a precipitate removal, in consequence of the appearance of a body of the allied troops before Orleans, which for some time threw the authorities and inhabitants of Blois into the utmost consternation; the force of the Allies in that direction being much exaggerated, and it being even reported that they had entered Orleans; while in fact the business turned out to be, that a party of pillaging Cossacks had only presented themselves before the town, and finding no force sufficient to receive them, again retired, after a skirmish of little consequence.

At the same time Napoleon having gained some trifling advantage over the corps commanded by General Blucher, it was an object of consequence to make as much as possible of it, and accordingly it was proclaimed throughout the streets by sound of trumpet,

trumpet, and affixed in large characters on the walls of all the public buildings, that the Emperor had gained a complete victory, and that the Russian army *étoit entèrement anéantie.* The same evening I was at the theatre, and between the pieces one of the actors came on the stage, and read the bulletin, dispatch, or account of this grand victory, for it is difficult to give a name to the reports of the operations of the army at this time; indeed, the word *bulletin* was now entirely dropped, from the ridicule in which it was held by all classes, on account of the gross and stupid falsehoods of which these reports were composed; in general the official accounts were given with this preface: "*Sa Majesté l'Impératrice, Reine et Régente, a reçue les nouvelles suivantes des positions des armées.*" The *Moniteur*, as well as the minor papers, had also recourse to every

possible means, such as supposed intercepted letters, private information, &c. &c. to blindfold and impose on the people. The player, however, who, as I have said, came forward to announce this grand victory, unmindful of the advice of Hamlet, entirely overacted his part, and, by "outstepping the modesty of Nature," destroyed the impression he intended to make, and rendered the whole account absurd. After running on with a string of unpronounceable Russian names, and stating that the artillery, caissons, fourgons, baggage, and equipage of the enemy had fallen into the power of the French, he concluded with, "*Messieurs, l'armée Russe est entièrement* "*détruite, et, je suis heureux d'avoir l'hon-*"*neur de vous informer, sans nous avoir* "*coûté un seul homme de tué.*" All the persons under government having been ordered to attend at the theatre on this occasion,

sion, more particularly on account of the English, the news was received with clapping of their hands, and acclamations of "*bravo! vive Napoleon!*" The eyes of the whole house were, as might be expected, turned on the English; and they seemed to be not a little surprised, at observing John Bull louder in applauding than themselves, vociferating "*bravo! vive Na-*" "*poleon! encore! encore!*" which brought the actor forward again to repeat the news, and he was even so stupid as to continue, until the French at last perceived that we were turning them into ridicule, and from several parts of the house was heard, "*bravo! ce n'est pas*" "*vraie! bravo! quelle mensonge!*" So that the authorities would have done much better in not ordering the mention of this pretended victory on the stage. A few days proved the ridiculous exaggeration of the account;

account; for this same totally annihilated Russian army resuscitated, as if by miracle, and gained some considerable advantages. Besides, the positions occupied by the French armies, as well as the falling of the funds, convinced the people of the successes of the Allies.

The orders for the removal of the dépôt from Blois to Gueret, in the department of the Creuse, were forwarded through General Bonard, commanding the district, whose ungentlemanly manners I have already had occasion to notice. The execution of these orders resting with him, the directions he gave were such as might be expected from his character, and known animosity to the English. He not only directed the order to be put into execution an hour after its being received, but also, to render the persecution more intolerable, marked out a line of cross roads,

roads, forming two-thirds of a circle, and entirely impracticable for carriages, and without any, or with only the most wretched accommodation. The littleness of mind of this wretch doubtless made him inwardly rejoice, at an opportunity of, as he conceived, annoying the English nation, by persecuting a few helpless families, and superannuated and distressed masters of ships; for though the orders were positive not to deviate from this route, those only obeyed them whose poverty obliged them to accompany the *gend'armes*, in order to procure lodging *gratis* while on the march; the families who could afford it, and the officers of the army and navy paying no attention to them; and though the high road by Tours was particularly forbidden, and orders issued not to furnish post horses, many went by this road; which I also chose, determined to risk the consequences,

quences, being satisfied that these orders originated in General Bonard himself, without the knowledge of the Minister of War; and indeed this was clearly proved, by his taking no notice of the many persons who acted in direct violation of them.

February 21. Having sent my servants with the carriage and horses by the great road to Amboise, I proceeded along the opposite bank of the river, as well to see the country as to visit General O'Connel, at his seat named Madon, which I found to be a very respectable mansion, but the road and approaches to it abominable. Indeed, though the country was most romantic, and had some magnificent châteaux, I almost repented my curiosity, from the badness of the roads, where there were any; for in many parts there was no trace of a road, and my only direction was the course of the Loire. These obstacles retarded my

arrival

arrival at Amboise till late in the evening, where I put up at the comfortable little inn I have formerly noticed. I was soon called on by an old acquaintance, Captain Lutyens, of the 11th dragoons, accompanied by a Swedish colonel, this being the dépôt for Swedish officers prisoners of war. In the course of the next day I saw many of these officers in the streets, and could not help admiring their decent and respectable dress and appearance, though they possessed no other resources than the pay from the French government. In these respects they far surpassed the prisoners of other nations under similar circumstances.

It being Shrove Tuesday, I accepted the invitation of Captain Lutyens to dinner, on the express condition of having pancakes; for, such is my adherence to the respectable old customs of our country, that I should deem it almost a misfortune

to

to omit a goose on Michaelmas day, a plum-pludding at Christmas, or pancakes on Shrove Tuesday.

I passed the morning in a ride to the celebrated château of Chenonceau, built by, and the favourite country residence of Francis the First. It is above two leagues and a half from Amboise, but, as is very generally the case with the approaches to the best country seats in France, the road, or rather the no-road to it is execrable. The building consists of two parts, one on each bank of the Cher, the communication being by a bridge one hundred and eighty feet long, which crosses the river, and on which is built a gallery, so that one is ignorant of this remarkable situation, until, looking out of the window of the gallery, the rapid and handsome river is seen running beneath; and from the windows a person fond of fishing may amuse himself catching

catching the finest salmon and trout. The gallery contains likewise a good collection of antient pictures. An opposite door from that of entrance leads into the grounds and wood formerly appropriated to the royal chace. This demesne has been for some generations the property of the antient and respectable family of Villeneuve; and the present proprietor is chamberlain to the Queen of Holland, a situation which it is to be presumed policy alone has caused him to accept. He possesses the manners and appearance of a gentleman, and politely invited Captain Lutyens, the Swedish colonel and myself into the drawing room, where we found some good company, several of whom were here on a visit, particularly Monsieur and Madame de Marcolle. The latter surprised me by speaking English perfectly; but I soon learnt that she

was

was an English lady, and married to Monsieur de Marcolle in England, to whom she brought a marriage portion of above £30,000. They reside near Chenonceau, at a small place called Chisay, which is, I believe, the family estate. Both were very pleasing in their manners, and pressed us to visit their house, and pass the day with them, which I regretted being obliged to decline, in consequence of my previous engagement at Amboise. Monsieur de Marcolle recounted to us the history of the château in ancient and modern days, and explained the historical pictures it contains. Most of the events they enumerated I had already read of, and I was much gratified by having them recalled to my memory by these representations. The château also contained the portraits of several princes and great men conspicuous in history.—

Among

Among other curiosities, we were shewn a pair of black silk breeches of Francis the First, in which, however, there was nothing remarkable, except their having been worn by that monarch.

Among the pictures, as may be presumed, were several in which Francis the First figured; particularly one of the battle of Marignan, gained by that king in person over the Swiss, in 1575. Francis is represented in the act of succouring a cavalier, who has fallen nearly under his horse, in such a manner as to be unable to defend himself against two Swiss, by whom he is attacked; the prince alone attacks the Swiss with his sword, defeats them, and replaces the fallen cavalier on his horse.

The Chevalier Bayard, celebrated in the martial annals of France by the name of "*Le Chevalier sans peur et sans reproche,*" and who contributed much to the gaining

the battle of Marignan, is also complimented in this and several other pictures, and particularly in one where he is represented knighting the king, who had desired to receive a sword from this celebrated warrior. The speech addressed by the chevalier to his sword on this occasion is recorded in history; "*Glorieuse épée, qui aujourd'hui a eu l'hon-*
"*neur de faire chevalier le plus grand roi*
"*du monde, tu seras comme relique gar-*
"*dée; je ne t'emploirai plus que contre*
"*les infidelles et ennemis du nom chrétien.*" In another picture the chevalier is represented as having received his mortal wound at the battle of Romagnano.

Much merit is due to Monsieur de Villeneuve, for having preserved so many interesting pictures and remains of antiquity in this château.

From Chenonceau we returned to Amboise by a tolerable road, over some fields

fields and through woods where the riding was good, until we reached the château of Chanteloup,* which I have before noticed as being the property of Monsieur de Chaptal, a senator. After dinner the commandant, a most respectable old gentleman, paid us a visit at Captain Lutyens; he strongly avowed his attachment to the antient dynasty, under which he had served with distinction, and expressed his hopes of the campaign terminating in the destruction of the Usurper, and of the satellites who are his accomplices, in subjugating and degrading France.

* Before the Revolution the princely residence of the Duke and Duchess de Choiseul, the patrons of the Abbé Barthelemy, author of *Les Voyages du jeune Anacharse en Grèce*, and who it is said wrote this celebrated work principally at Chanteloup. See page 56 of this volume.

CHAPTER XLVIII.

Tours .... Innkeeper's family .... Russian prisoners .... Loches' shooting party .... Chatillon ..... Cropped horse ....Buzançais....Châteauroux.... Russian officers .... La Châtre.... Gueret.

FEBRUARY 23. Quitting Amboise on the 23d, in a very severe frost, I continued my journey for Tours, where I arrived early, and put up at the same hotel as when there before. Neither the house nor the people had undergone the slightest alteration, and the latter were employed exactly in the same manner, and in the same spot, where I had left them three years before. This unchangeable mode of life, so different from the rapid succession of variety to which I had been accustomed,

customed, made me reflect on the various habits and astonishing mobility of the human character, which enables us to accustom ourselves to manners of living totally opposite. Though, like a horse in a mill, pursuing an eternal round of monotonous sameness, yet my hosts of Tours were content and happy. Their son, who had been drawn for the conscription when I was last at that place, had the good fortune to be placed and to remain as writer in the office of a dépôt, and the daughter was on the eve of marriage with a person approved of by her parents.

Soon after my arrival I was visited by Captain Gerrard, to whom I had a few days before remitted some thousands of francs in cash, for the relief of the soldiers passing through Tours, and the distribution of which he had kindly undertaken.

The number of Russian prisoners I saw

at Tours, exceeding ten or twelve thousand men, at first surprised me rather disagreeably; but I was soon relieved on this head, by a conversation with Mr. Wilkes, a remarkably intelligent and well informed English gentleman, whom I have already mentioned. He assured me that these prisoners were now only paraded to amuse and deceive the people, the greatest part of them having been taken near Smolensko, and in the course of the Russian campaign. This I found was now a common practice, for as even the most ignorant were so well aware of the hyperbole of the newspapers, that "*faux comme les* "*journaux*," has become a proverb, other stratagems were obliged to be resorted to, therefore the same prisoners are kept continually marching, so as apparently to be in two or three places at once. This reminds me of the well known observation

of

of Sir Boyle Roche in the Irish House of Commons: "and you know, Mr. Speaker, "I could not be in two places at once, "Mr. Speaker, unless I was a little bird, "Mr. Speaker." Sir Boyle might however now observe, instead of the little bird, "unless I was a prisoner in France, Mr. "Speaker."

Having dined and passed an agreeable evening with Captain Gerrard, I proceeded the next morning on my route, after delivering a letter to General Lynch, an Irish officer, long in the French service, and now inspector of reviews. The streets were so crowded with prisoners, that I could scarce make my way through them; but at length getting clear of them, I pursued my route by an excellent road, and through a fine country, particularly in the vicinity of Tours, where are several magnificent châteaux, formerly belonging to the first

families of France, but which by the effects of the Revolution have fallen into the hands of a very different class of persons. The former *évêché*, or bishop's palace, is on an eminence, about two miles from Tours, commanding a fine view of the Loire and Cher, and has the appearance of a respectable English country mansion.

Crossing the Cher by a handsome hewn stone bridge, I reached Loches late in the evening, the distance from Tours being ten leagues. Here I met some English acquaintance, with whom I proposed passing the next day on a shooting party. We found the town's people extremely civil, and in the morning a French gentleman politely offered to accompany us to the ground, where we might find plenty of snipes, the only game now to be met with. In order to arrive at it, we had to cross a rapid stream in a punt, and one of our company

company being a naval officer, boldly undertook to manage it, at which the Frenchman expressed his apprehensions, from the rapidity of the current; but, on being told that Monsieur was *un marin Anglais*, he was perfectly satisfied of his skill and address, and embarked with entire confidence. No sooner, however, was the boat cast off from the shore, than the current took her under the lee, and all the skill of *le marin Anglais* was of no effect, the boat being carried rapidly sideways towards a mill; when the Frenchman, seeing the danger, jumped up to his neck in the water, and having gained the shore cried out, "*vous êtes tous perdus!*" which was far from consoling. However, by doubling our exertions, we fortunately reached the bank without accident. In conversation afterwards, the Frenchman observed that he had always entertained a high opinion

nion of *la marine Anglaise* until now, but that he would never again enter into a boat of which one of them undertook the direction. This I could not help thinking was something similar to the calling on Sir Joseph Banks to regulate the paper currency of England, because he was an excellent judge of coins; for certainly it is almost impossible to conceive a greater contrast, than between an English man of war and a river punt, managed with a single pole or a paddle: yet such were our French companion's ideas on the subject, that from this trivial circumstance he formed his opinion of the whole British navy, and doubtless in all societies will in future abuse them as lubbers.

The snipes being wild we had little sport, and returned early to Loches, the castle of which I visited while dinner was preparing. It is celebrated for the long siege

siege it sustained from the English, who were obliged to retire and leave it unconquered; as well as for containing the tomb of the beautiful Agnes Sorrel, the favourite mistress of the weak Charles the Seventh of France, and who governed this monarch until his death in 1450. This monument, which is in the prefecture, is only remarkable by the remains of the celebrated person it covers, and by the four lines on it, supposed to be written by Francis the First, after her death, and which I copied:

Gentille Agnes, plus d'honneur tu mérite,
La cause étant de France recouvrer,
Que ce que peut dedans un cloître ouvrer,
Close nonnaire ou bien dévot hermitte.

Loches is said to contain between four and five thousand inhabitants, and was the residence of several English families during the last peace. Adjoining it is a little town, which

which having separate magistrates and separate customs, caused frequent disputes, until at last both towns referred themselves to the National Assembly, which, after mature deliberation, passed a decree that the town so close upon Loches should be considered as being distant ten leagues from it! Whether this curious revolutionary decree had the effect of terminating their disputes I could not learn.

In the morning I pursued my journey along the banks of the Indre, and through the town of Chastillon on that river. It is a miserable place with very narrow streets and an ill-looking race of inhabitants, who seemed to gaze with astonishment at my horse, the shortness of whose ears attracted their notice, as well as that of all the persons I had lately met on the road; nor was I aware of their ignorance of their being cropt, until overtaking two decent looking farmers,

farmers, one of them, after expressing his surprise, requested to know where the breed of short-eared horses was to be procured? to which I answered "that it was "extremely scarce, having been originally "imported from the island of Ceylon into "England by the late Duke of Queens-"bury, who specified particularly in his "will that no more of the breed should be "permitted to go out of the family; and "that consequently it was now become "impossible to procure one of them." The farmer expressed his thankfulness for this information, saying, "that he had al-"ways been curious in horse-flesh, and "that he thought himself very fortunate in "meeting so accidentally *un Monsieur An-"glais, en route.*"

In the evening I reached the village of Buzançais, where I put up at the sign of la Tête Noir (the blackamoor's head), a small inn

inn kept by a mulatto of St. Domingo; who, from the little knowledge of the inhabitants of this part of the country of foreign parts, was as great a curiosity to them as my horse with short ears. Here, however, I got an excellent dinner and comfortable accommodation, and from hence I sent an express to three Russian generals, to whom I had written from Loches, informing them I should meet them at Chateauroux, and from whom I received the answer in the Appendix.

Early in the morning I resumed my journey, and arrived at Chateauroux before noon, where I put up in a miserably uncomfortable inn, called le Petit St. Jean, which I strongly recommend all travellers to avoid. Here I found General Poltoratski, who accosted me with the familiarity of an old friend, and introduced me to Lieutenant General Olsouffief and another

another officer. These gentlemen belonged to the corps commanded by the Prussian General Blucher, and had been made prisoners. General Poltoratski asking me if I had seen the gazette, and on replying in the negative, proposed going to the Caffé, which, being Sunday, we found crowded with a strange mixture of peasants, postillions, barbers, common soldiers, and officers with the *croix d'honneur*, jumbled indiscriminately, and playing at domino, backgammon and billiards, for sous. The General was quite *au fait* in the proper reading of the French papers, giving to every line its true meaning, though dressed up in language to deceive the people, and shewing incontestably, from the local position of the armies, that what they announced as brilliant victories were in fact complete defeats.

On returning to the inn, where I had promised

promised to dine with the Russian officers, we found in the apartment a facetious and loquacious French gentleman, who made continual puns, and abused Napoleon and his government with the greatest freedom; at the same time expressing his attachment to Russia, and his admiration of the Russian character, which I could not help inwardly thinking was going rather too deep in the hyperbolic; for though a Russian may possess sterling good qualities, as to his amiability, according to the French acceptation of the word, it was too ridiculous. On asking the General who this person was, he assured me that he knew nothing more of him, than from his self-introduction, with the profession of his attachment to Russia, and the offer of his services. To which I observed, "he cer-" tainly could not suppose that a French-" man, in a miserable inland town, in a

" very

" very remote part of France, could ap-
" preciate the Russian character, of whose
" country he had probably never heard,
" until the events of the late campaign
" had so terribly forced the knowledge on
" him; and in this case his information could
" only be derived from the French news-
" papers, which it must be allowed did not
" place the Russians in the most amiable
" point of view." Consequently I doubted much if this civil gentleman was not a spy, or at best had intruded himself into our society, knowing us to be foreign officers, with the intention of leading us to abuse Buonaparte, and of reporting our conversation to the authorities of the town, in order to ingratiate himself with them, or of denouncing us to the police. " But," I continued, " if this is his object, let us in-
" dulge him, by turning Napoleon and his
" government into ridicule, and shewing

" our contempt for the authorities; and, if " he should attempt to espouse their cause, " we can shew him the short way down " stairs over the balusters, or the still more " expeditious route, out of the window." The Russian, who was a lively pleasant fellow, and detested a Frenchman from his heart, cordially agreed to this proposal, and we again resumed our conversation with him. We first discussed the character of the present French, expressing our surprise at their tamely suffering themselves to be trampled on by a tyrant, and to be made the tools of his wild ambition and vanity; adding, that the authorities, who executed his atrocious designs, were, if possible, as worthy of universal detestation as himself. " In fact, Monsieur," I concluded, " the word *canaille*, whose " synonyme is to be found in no language " but your own, and which before the Re-

" volution

" volution was only applied to a portion of " the people, has since that period become " applicable to the whole nation; for none " but a *peuple canaille* could have so " slavishly borne the various species of " tyranny inflicted on them by their suc- " cessive rulers, during the last twenty " years." The Russian observed, it was not prudent to speak so freely before the servants, and the Frenchman agreeing with them, I replied, " that I had no fear in " doing so; for the authorities must be " aware of our sentiments, as prisoners, " who asked no favours from them; who " were constantly overlooked, and to " whom the most they could do was to " place us in closer confinement, by which " we should be released from our *parole* " *d'honneur*, and all obstacles be done away " to our taking the first opportunity of es- " caping to our friends."

The Frenchman observed, with much complaisance, "*Monsieur a raison,*" and then turned the subject by contrasting the national character before the Revolution with that of the present day; which was infinitely to the disadvantage of the latter.

Having finished our dinner, we were entering our carriages to proceed; when a crowd of people, who had assembled round them, cried out, "*Vive l'Empereur, Vive Napoleon;*" for which it is more than probable they were paid, in order to convince us of the *bons sentimens* of the people. The Russian General, instead of seeming annoyed, made a motion as if paying money from one hand to another; which clearly conveyed the idea of "poor devils, you are paid for this bawling!"

From Chateauroux (which is a wretched dirty town, though of eight thousand inhabitants, situated on the Indre, of which

department

department it is the chief place) I pursued my route towards La Chatre, while the Russian officers followed the post road; they being furnished with post horses at the expense of the French government, a favour denied to the English in the same situation.

Soon after leaving Chateauroux I passed a very extensive iron forge, on a branch of the Indre; but which has been unemployed for the last ten years, the proprietors having become bankrupts from the destructive effects of Napoleon's continental system on every species of national industry. The iron mines are at a short distance in a forest, and their produce is remarked for its extreme softness. I slept at the village of Ardente, three leagues from Chateauroux; and the following day reached La Chatre, five leagues further; where I put up at the Grand St. Germain, an excellent house, with superior Bourdeaux and other wines.

At La Chatre was a corps of disarmed German soldiers, who had been hitherto allowed their rations and a certain daily sum of money, but which were now stopped, and they were ordered to be distributed in the villages and quartered on the inhabitants, for whom they were obliged to labour for their food. The want of money, indeed, began to be most seriously felt by the French government; and a total cessation of payment of their troops, as well as of those holding civil offices, and even of the clergy, was the consequence. At the same time, all confidence being destroyed between the government and the people, no contracts could be established; those who had accepted such contracts, latterly, having been paid in government *bons*, which were now of no value. The bakers, therefore, refusing to furnish bread, were themselves put in requisition to bake the flour the millers

lers were obliged to supply; and every other kind of provision for the army was procured in the same manner, until at length the people began to complain. In order to reconcile them to these requisitions, the most exaggerated reports of the atrocities committed by the allied troops, were industriously circulated in every village and hamlet, and the most forcible appeals made to the national spirit and energy, as well as to the personal fears of the people, to induce them to come forward with their last resources, as the only means of freeing their country and escaping themselves from the horrors of a visitation of Cossacks. The more enlightened of the people, foreseeing that these appeals would soon be followed by forced contributions of every kind, hastened to sell their horses and cattle for any price they could get; and their suspicions

were soon realized, by a general requisition of horses, cattle, sheep, flour, &c. Such was the discontent of all classes, that had the Allies adhered to the tenour of their proclamations in respecting the persons and property of the people, they would have been every where received as deliverers, with open hands; and the downfall of Napoleon would have been soon decided.

For six leagues from La Chatre, towards Gueret, the route is almost impracticable for carriages on springs; and had it not now been hardened by the frost we should never have got over it. In this direction a new road has been marked out and commenced at intervals, which if finished as it has been begun will equal in solidity even the Roman military ways; the foundation being laid of vast stones covered with flints, limestone, and in many places a species of marble.

marble. This road is intended to open a communication, by post, between Chateauroux and Gueret, and by that means with Tours and Orleans, with which the department of the Creuse has hitherto had no other public communication, except by Limoges and Moulins, causing a round of twenty and thirty leagues.

It is undoubtedly but doing justice to Napoleon to observe, that his plans for the internal improvement of France were vast and judicious; particularly in opening new communications between the different parts of the empire, by roads and canals; his wild ambition has however prevented the far greater number of these projected works from being finished, and many of them from being even commenced; and as there is no spirit of private enterprise or improvement among the French, such as we find in England, these projected designs will certainly

certainly lay dormant, until the government is sufficiently recovered from its present paralized state to execute them.

The badness of the road between La Chatre and Genouillat (a poor village where I put up for the night), is in some measure compensated by the appearance of the country, which is highly picturesque; presenting a succession of hills and vallies, almost entirely under pasture, and shaded by masses of enormous chesnut-tress. The habitations are here so thinly scattered, that the deserts of America can scarcely be more solitary; and the few human beings met with, are almost as savage in their appearance, and equally unintelligible in their language, as the most uncivilized of the Indian tribes.

From Genouillat the road is finished to Gueret, a distance of five leagues, and is excellent, winding round the bases of the hills

hills in an endless succession of curves, so that the sun is alternately before and behind you. The country still grows more romantic, and about three leagues from Gueret the road is along the side of a glen, through which runs the Creuse, and which equals almost any spot of the same kind, even in Ireland.

The difficulty of procuring lodgings at Gueret was, as might be supposed, even greater than at Blois, the town containing only three thousand inhabitants; the prices asked were, therefore, not only exorbitant beyond conception, but there was not even room for one half the dépôt; so that upwards of two hundred persons were obliged to sleep in stables or barns for several nights; and those who were lodged, were almost as uncomfortable, the houses being filthy in the extreme, and without even the most common and necessary furniture Added

to

to which, the inhabitants appeared to be a most uncivil race, and soon proved that they merited the character we had heard of them, of being the most litigious and ill-disposed people of France.

A friend who had arrived before me, engaged me a lodging at three hundred francs a month, for which price I was to have a small dining room and anti-chamber, a bed-room closet for a servant, and the use of the kitchen. The landlord, his wife, and daughter, were all civility on my arrival; but after I had slept one night in the house, their conduct totally changed; doubtless, from the intention of making me so uncomfortable, that I should be obliged to quit the lodging, when they would force me to pay the three months' rent, and immediately let it to another. They began by informing me that I could not dine in the dining room; next,

that

that my dinner could not be drest in the kitchen; and, finally, that my wine could not be put into the cellar, as it would interfere with their own. Upon inquiring into the meaning of these strange restrictions, and why they had not mentioned them previous to my entering the house, they were all so civil, and made so many bows and grimaces, that I could not tell what to make of them, nor could I bring them to any direct conclusion; I was therefore obliged to tell them that their customs and habits seemed so directly contrary to mine, that it was quite impossible I could remain in the house, to put them so much out of their way; and I concluded, by asking, "what I should have to pay, if I "immediately found a house to suit me?" To which the landlord replied, shrugging up his shoulders, "*Rien de tout, mon Dieu, "milord, on n'en pense pas;*" adding, "that

" that I might remain four or five days, un-
" til I could suit myself, and that he should
" be but too much flattered by the honour
" I did him." The same evening I found a house in the country, two leagues distant, which I removed to the following morning, though the greater part of the road to it was totally impassable by a carriage, being across ravines and over huge masses of rock, morasses and deep fords.

On taking my leave of the lady and her daughter, I again asked if I had any thing to pay for the two nights I had slept in the house? With abundance of compliments, she refused listening to any thing of the kind, and we parted with mutual civilities, having made a handsome present to the maid, which I thought might be considered as a compliment to the mistress. Two days after, I was not a little surprised at learning, that the landlord had called on the

gentleman

gentleman who engaged the lodging for me, to demand the month's rent; I immediately caused the fellow to be informed, that if I was to pay for the lodging, not being able to occupy it myself, I, doubtless, had a right to dispose of it as I thought proper; and therefore should put two *tapageurs* of my acquaintance into it, who having hard heads and good lungs, generally sat up all night, smoking, drinking punch, and singing jovial songs; and whom I should request to accommodate three or four of my favourite dogs with the use of the dining room. In short, that I would occupy the lodging in what manner I pleased, until the expiration of the month. This threat had such an effect on my extortionate landlord and his wife, that they came to an accommodation, and I agreed to pay them one hundred and fifty francs, rather than be involved in a litigious dispute

pute with such canaille. This is only one of a thousand cases I have had occasion to know, and I mention it not only as giving an idea of French character, but as a caution to others to beware of complaisance and grimace, which generally only cover some design of imposition.

CHAPTER XLIX.

Department of the Creuse.

THE department of the Creuse, comprising the antient province of La Marche, is so much out of the track of English travellers in general, and so very different from the more frequented parts of France, that I trust my readers will not find a short descriptive sketch of it uninteresting, formed as well from my own observations as from the information of persons well acquainted with it, and from the printed statistical accounts.

With respect to the face of the country, this department is composed of chains and groups of mountains and hills, separated by very narrow vallies or glens; the summits, named in the country *puys*, have the

form of rounded hummacks, and are evidently the remains of peaked mountains, whose conical heads have been worn away by the elements, and which there can be no doubt antiently contained volcanoes, from the strata of scories and basaltes found in many of the vallies. The composition of the mountains is granitic and schistus. Their greatest elevation in this department does not exceed eight hundred and fifty feet; but their ramifications, which extend into the neighbouring countries, rise to greater heights, the Golden Mountain, or Puy de Dome, in the next department, for instance, being six thousand feet above the level of the sea, and its summit retaining the snow nearly throughout the year.

La Creuse, as may be supposed from the nature of its surface, is most profusely watered; the rivulets, which have their sources in the mountains, descend with

with violent rapidity into the vallies, where their union forms numerous secondary rivers, whose waters in their turns are lost in the Loire. The springs which gush out from the surface are so innumerable, that it is difficult to find one hundred square feet of dry soil to build on; and hence, with the most trifling labour, every hamlet has a stream sufficient to turn its mill.

None of the rivers of this department are, however, considerable, either as to breadth or depth; their sources being very elevated and their courses short, they wind but little, running with great rapidity through narrow glens and ravines, and over a bottom of granite and schistus, which renders them useless for transport, even by floating, and present almost insurmountable obstacles to their being rendered navigable. The Creuse and the Cher, both of

which have their rise in and traverse the department, are alone deserving of particular mention. The course of the former is almost internal, through ravines formed on each side by rocky precipices, whose bases are in many places so eaten into by the current, that they overhang and appear ready to fall into it. The Creuse, as well as the other rivers and rivulets of this department, generally abound in excellent trout, perch, carp, tench, pike, barbel, eels, and lampreys.

There are but few spots of, properly speaking, marshy land in the department, the rapid declivity of the soil not admitting the stagnation of the waters. It has, however, a great number of ponds, both natural and artificial, formed by the union of springs, and which serve as reservoirs of fish, from whence the market is regularly and certainly

tainly supplied. The water of these ponds being continually removed, is productive of no noxious effects on the atmosphere.

The temperature of the Creuse is subject to great variations; the air is in general very sharp and pure, but the sudden changes caused by the thunder storms and rains, render the climate disagreeable and ungenial to foreigners; besides, the elevation of the soil, the mountains, and the superabundance of water, render the general temperature cold and humid. During the winter, rain is less frequent than snow, which covers the country for some months. In the summer, thunder storms are frequent and violent, and in this season thick fogs also arise from the vallies. In short, according to the information of the inhabitants, the spring commences late, the summer is short, the autumn fair and pleasant, and the winter long and severe.

The diseases most prevalent seem to arise from the nature of the climate, and to be immediately caused by checked perspiration; besides, diseases not dangerous in themselves, are here often rendered mortal by the improper methods of treatment, the great mass of the inhabitants, and those of the country in particular, having recourse to the most absurd or most dangerous practices.

From what has been already said, it will be inferred that the department has no plain of any extent; nevertheless though the face of the country has in general a melancholy, and sometimes even a savage aspect, from the summits of many of the hills presenting only a black heath, fern, broom, furze, and other plants denoting sterility, the whole is far from being displeasing to the eye, and many of the vallies and glens having each its clear rivulet, shaded

shaded by antique oaks and chesnut trees, present a series of varied and picturesque sites of the first beauty.

With respect to the soil of the department, it is in general of little depth, light, poor and infertile, covering a base of granite rock, which in many spots rises in naked masses above the surface. Both the nature of the soil and the superabundance of water, naturally point out this country as fit only for pasture and wood, and accordingly the portion of tillage is extremely trifling. The summits of the hills are generally barren wastes, the sides near the summits usually covered with coppice wood or chesnut, and towards their bases formed into meadows.

Though there are but few masses of wood deserving the name of forest in the department, the hedge inclosures, which are multiplied to a great degree, are thickly planted

with oak, ash, beach, birch, poplar, chesnut, and other inferior trees, whose branches afford abundant fuel. The oak also affords a sufficiency of wood for buildings, as well as timber of the first size and quality for naval construction, but which the difficulty of transport to the naval arsenals renders so extremely dear, that the quantity they receive from this part of the country is comparatively trifling.

The science of agriculture and rural economy seems to have made less progress in the department of the Creuse than in any other I have had occasion to visit in France, and in these respects it is at least two hundred years behind the present state of improvement. The minute subdivision of property, which precludes the employment of any considerable capital, and the general ignorance of the cultivators, and consequent inveterate adherence to old bad methods,

methods, are the principal causes of this want of improvement.

With respect to manure, the department possessing neither lime nor marle, the melioration of the soil is confined entirely to stable dung, or to the leaves of trees, collected and spread in the avenues to the farms to rot. The instruments of agriculture are extremely defective, the plough only turning up the soil at the very surface, and the use of the harrow and roller being almost unknown.

The grain cultivated are winter and spring rye, the former sowed in September and the latter in March. This is the only grain which does not degenerate, and its cultivation is therefore the most extended. Sarrazin, or black wheat, is also cultivated in all parts of the department, and forms a considerable portion of the food of the inhabitants; it is also

also given to the hogs and poultry. The quantity of wheat produced is so trifling, that the department is obliged to import nineteen-twentieths for its consumption. Oats are also in small quantity, and of a very poor and small kind. Potatoes are an object of considerable cultivation, and form a portion of the constant food of the inhabitants, as well as of the domestic animals; either from the quality of the soil, or the imperfect cultivation, they are watery and insipid. The round turnip is also produced in quantity, and of good quality; and has of late years been employed in the fattening of cattle.

All the common fruit-trees succeed in this department, such as the apple, pear, plum, cherry, &c. whose fruits form a small object of export to the neighbouring country. The chesnut tree covers a considerable portion of the department, but its

fruit

fruit is small and insipid, no attention being paid to its cultivation, though in several districts it forms the chief food of the people for six months of the year. The climate is unfavourable to the finer stone-fruit; as the peach, apricot, or nectarine, as well as to the vine, which latter is only seen *en treillage* in gardens.

The principal riches of the department consist in its horned cattle; and the bullock is the only animal whose rearing and management is properly understood or attended to. It is also used in country labour, whether in the plough or in cross road conveyance; and when aged, is fattened up and sent to supply the markets of some of the great towns on the road to Paris. Cows are much more neglected, and being very badly fed during the winter give but little milk; and the butter, though it forms a trifling object of export

to

to the chief towns of the adjoining departments, is neither cheap nor good. The sheep are very small, their wool coarse, and their flesh indifferent, chiefly owing to the ignorant manner of keeping them, for the department affords abundant mountain pasture covered with aromatic herbs. The race of horses is also small and badly formed; and as bullocks are almost alone used in country labour, little attention is paid to their multiplication or improvement; and hence their numbers are only sufficient for the use of the department. The asses and mules are also small: the former are little used, but the latter form an article of export to the neighbourhood, and even to Spain. Hogs are a very material branch of rural economy; pork forming not only the greatest portion of the animal food of the people, but a considerable

number

number of the live animals are exported to Bourdeaux, la Rochelle, and Rochefort, for provisioning the navy.

The department has abundance of game; such as hares, partridges, woodcocks, wild ducks, snipes, &c. Foxes and wolves are also numerous; but it has neither wild boars nor deer. With respect to market provisions, the beef and mutton are both very indifferent, the slaughter for the market being chiefly confined to old dried up cows; and the sheep being almost starved during the long winter, their flesh is uneatable until the month of June. The veal, on the contrary, is good, and with pork forms the chief provision of the flesh market. The price of all these meats vary from four to seven sous the pound, according to the quality. The markets are poorly supplied with poultry, as well as with vegetables; a common sized onion costing a sou: in

short,

short, the delicate appetite will here find little to gratify it, and even the most indifferent soon grows disgusted with the eternal round of carp, veal, pork and hares.

The department possesses few minerals yet discovered; they are confined to antimony, iron and coals. The working of one or two mines of the first has been discontinued since the Revolution; those of iron have never been opened, and the want of convenient land or water carriage confines those of coal to a mere trifle. The department is known to possess only one warm spring, which is sulphureous, and of the temperature of 47°.of Reaumur. Ferruginous springs are found in several places.

The industry of the inhabitants of this department is almost entirely confined to rural economy; the only manufactures it possesses being a few of paper, carpeting and

and tapestry, and very coarse woollens, and common hats for the peasantry. The household linen is the produce of the female peasants, who while tending their sheep are also occupied in spinning. The exports are bullocks, sheep, hogs and mules, some butter; and of manufactured objects, paper and carpeting. On the other hand, the department is obliged to import all its wine, nineteen-twentieths of its wheat, all its salt, iron, fine manufactures, and colonial produce: so that the balance of trade is entirely against it; and hence it would be one of the poorest departments of the empire, did it not receive an influx of specie from another channel. It is calculated that forty thousand of its inhabitants emigrate every year, and visit all parts of France in search of employment: they are all workmen; chiefly masons, tilers,

tilers, sawyers, house-painters, wool and flax-combers, &c. They remain absent nine months, and return with their earnings to pass the other three with their wives and families in the department. It is said not to be uncommon for one of these workmen to bring back three thousand francs, and even so much as six thousand in specie, which produces a circulation far above what would result from the territorial products and balance of its commerce.

The inhabitants have a peculiarity of character, both physical and moral, which distinguishes them, and by no means favourably, from the natives of the other provinces. With respect to their persons; they are generally below rather than above the middle size, thick set, stout and robust; their features are far from giving a prepossessing idea of their dispositions, those of the men being morose and

and ferocious, and of the women coarse and ugly in the extreme. The contour of the face is almost a perfect circle, the chin being extremely short, the forehead low, and the cheeks elevated; which, together with their small round eyes, give them more the resemblance of certain Tartar tribes, than of natives of the interior of *la belle France.* Their own countrymen accord them the praise of being naturally intelligent, sprightly and industrious; but we have almost universally found them to be uncivil even to insolence, litigious, cheats, and filthy both in their persons and dwellings, the latter being scarcely fit for the reception of hogs. In their favour, we must however observe, that the men are sober, which is sufficiently evinced by the very few cabarets in Gueret in comparison with towns of the same population in other parts of France; and that the women of

the lower class, particularly in the villages, are chaste before marriage, and faithful after. In short, the general corruption of manners, which we have had occasion to notice in other parts, seems as yet to have made but little progress in this obscure department, probably from the few communications it possesses with any large towns. The husbands are here the perfect lords and masters of their wives, the subordination and submission of the latter being extreme, and by far the greater portion of their laborious duties, both within and without doors, falling on them. In short, the good and bad qualities of these people are those of the demi-savage, beyond which state of society they have scarcely arose. The common language of the peasants is a coarse and harsh *patois*, a dialect of the ancient Languedoc, which differs in almost every commune. The men, however, also

speak

speak French, but the women, though they understand the language, always answer any question in *patois*. Education seems to be less attended to in this department than in any we have visited, few of the men being able to write, and none of the women. The town of Gueret, the principal of the department, has two booksellers' shops, of which about one hundred romances, and an assortment of church and children's books, form the whole stock; and it would be difficult to find a private collection of fifty volumes in the whole town.

We have noticed from our own experience the litigious disposition of the people of this department, and hence it is crowded with lawyers, bailiffs, and all the other myrmidons of litigation, with whom Gueret, in particular, is almost entirely peopled, and who find constant employment, and

as constantly amass fortunes, to the total ruin of him who gains a cause, as well as of him who loses it.

We shall conclude this sketch with an extract from a published description of the department, which notices the gradual change in the manners of its inhabitants. By inference perhaps it may exhibit no unfaithful description of the general state of all the departments of France, since the present corruption of manners has borne sway in consequence of the Revolution.

" For some years past a great revolution " has been going on in the manners and " customs of the peasantry of this depart- " ment. It is not above twenty years since " they quitted their antient costume, which " consisted in their long hair flowing loose- " ly on their shoulders, a very short coat " of the coarsest grey frieze, a jacket of " the same, almost as long as the coat, and " a waistcoat

" a waistcoat under the jacket, pantaloons
" of the same cloth descending to the
" ancle, and over them worsted stockings
" ascending and gartered above the knee,
" and sabots. At present this dress is only
" used by some old men, the young ones
" universally adopting the long coat, short
" waistcoat, breeches, stockings and shoes
" on high days, sabots being still universally
" worn both in the town and country.
" Since the Revolution the peasant has also
" become less sober, and in his visits to the
" the towns he spends a part of his money
" in the cabarets, in wine, beer, liqueurs,
" and even in coffee; of which, a few
" years ago, he had never heard the name.
" The progress of luxury among the fe-
" male peasants is equally remarkable:
" the girls accustomed to clean out the
" cow-house, and destined to do so all
" their lives, purchase for their weddings,

" silks, cambrick (which is passed on them " for English*), silk stockings, and lace " for their head dress, at forty francs an " ounce. Twenty years ago the names of " all these objects were unknown to this " class of people."

The population of the department is estimated at two hundred and eighteen thousand souls. Its permanent contribution of taxes are,

	Francs.
Land tax - - - -	880,000
Personal and sumptuary tax	94,000
Doors and windows - -	27,800
Total -	1,001,800

Which gives four francs seventy centimes (about four shillings sterling) per annum per cent., which is nearly doubled during war.

* This parenthesis of the French author is worthy of notice, as it proves, that even in the most obscure parts of France, the superiority of English manufactures is known and appreciated.

CHAPTER L.

Triumph of the Allies.... Singular event.... Downfal of Buonaparte; "God save the King" sung at Gueret theatre in consequence.... Departure of English prisoners.

THE long and eventful contest, in which Europe and the world had been for such a period engaged, had now the appearance of drawing to a termination; each day conveyed intelligence, notwithstanding every artifice that could be imagined was practised by the Prefect and the authorities, to keep the English, and those of the French inhabitants of Gueret who were secretly attached to the Bourbon family, in ignorance. We read the French papers, all

replete with accounts of the most brilliant victories obtained by Napoleon over the Allies, and at one time his advance looked rather despondent, judging from the date of his head-quarters.

The plan however soon became evidently for the Allies to act on the defensive, either until their force was assembled, or with the intention of harassing the French troops, and increasing (if possible) their discontent. We heard of the surrender of Bourdeaux, as well as that of Lyons; and judging, from the small space of territory in Napoleon's possession, either for the advantage of conscription or for levying taxes, we had the secret consolation to know that his career, from such a diminution of resources, must very soon terminate. The people, moreover, refused paying taxes, and neither officer, soldier, or civil magistrate, received pay.

The

The prisoners, of which there were about seventy thousand in the neighbourhood, were billeted on the inhabitants of villages, who were forced to find them in every thing, and they were of no farther expense to the state. At length the account arrived of the downfal of Paris, an event scarcely to be credited, were we to judge from the resolutions of its inhabitants, and their declaration so shortly before, on Napoleon's departure for the army, " that before the " Allies should enter Paris a rampart should " be made of the bodies of its citizens." As to this wonderful rampart, and the change which so suddenly took place in the general sentiments of the French nation, it is so recent on the minds of every person, that there can be no necessity for mentioning further particulars. Paris was apparently, however, considered of no consequence by the

the Buonapartists, as the Emperor could retire and defend the banks of the Loire.

The interruption of communication with Paris was of short duration, for Napoleon did not long survive the loss of his *ci-devant* capital; and most anxiously indeed did we all look for his downfal, not only as the means of obtaining our personal liberty, but for the rescue of France and of Europe from the dominion of a tyrant, that at one time had contrived to rivet chains so firm as to secure the persons of the French inhabitants, and render them subservient to his tyrannical and frantic exploits; and by the means of artifice, treachery, and fraud, had so far got possession of men's minds, as to make them his accomplices, or the instruments by which he either executed, or attempted to carry into execution, deeds that Frenchmen, now that they have leisure

sure or time for reflection, must shudder at the idea of, and be ashamed to consider that they had so long been the slaves and the dupes to the despotic will of such a ruffian.

I had a country house some miles distant from the town of Gueret, over a bad road, having ravines, rivers, woods, and morasses to pass previous to arriving there; and in such a place, it may be presumed I was removed from the source of intelligence or of news, unless I went into the town. One Sunday evening, having invited some friends to pass two or three days in the country, a strange event took place. While drinking our wine after dinner, three of the wine glasses broke spontaneously in pieces, and the wine ran about the table and on the floor; the clock, which before had struck tolerably correct, now struck two hundred and sixteen; the screech-owls, of which there were

were abundance in the neighbourhood, made a hideous noise, and appearances were altogether so strange, that I observed there must either have been an earthquake, or some most extraordinary event had taken place. Our imaginations, from being wound up to the highest pitch of conjecture and anxiety, to devise a cause for such strange occurrences, were soon set at rest by a most violent rapping at the door, which proved to be an express, that brought us the agreeable and wonderful intelligence of Napoleon's abdicating the throne, and the extraordinary change such an event has since created on the civil and political system of the world.

My companions had no objection to a cheerful glass of wine, and I brought forth the best the cellar could produce, of which we drank copiously to "the success of "Old England," with the chearing and de-

lightful

lightful prospect of once more visiting our long absent native country and our friends.

On the following day I went into the town of Gueret; the English were elated to madness; white cockades were soon exhibited by them; but the Prefect, who had been strongly attached to Napoleon, would make nothing known; and the event was altogether so sudden and so wonderful, that one half of the inhabitants could not believe it, and were afraid to shew symptoms of joy, however rejoiced they might inwardly feel.

Our midshipmen became riotous, and the imperial eagles which were exhibited in various parts of the town, as signs and emblems of Napoleon's omnipotence, were soon destroyed. A confirmation of the good news was coming into the town continually, although the Prefect was obstinate. On the following day we formed a party to go to the play. The players were Bourbonists,

or

or assumed that character; and although the Mayor and many of the authorities had not received intelligence regularly from the Prefect, they mounted the white cockade; the players came forward also in white cockades.

One of them had obtained a very large croix de St. Louis, and appeared in the formerly much respected character of an old French officer. He was loudly applauded; but the musicians, who unfortunately could not play the tune of "God save the King," which possibly they had never heard of, were saluted from all quarters with so sharp a fire of apples and other missiles for their ignorance, that they were forced to seek their safety in flight.

The playhouse now exhibited a scene of friendly riot, confusion, and noise; the French and English mutually crying out

"*vivent*

" *vivent les Anglois, vivent les François,*" and complimenting each other, so that the parts of the play were totally changed, the spectators or audience assuming the character of actors, while, *vice versa*, the actors became spectators.

An old French General, with a large hooked nose, met with great attention, from his having a croix de St. Louis and a conspicuously large white cockade; his appearance was quite a caricature, yet he created additional interest in the English, by his crying out, " *vivent les Anglois! vivent* " *nos libérateurs!*" An Irish officer next seemed to attract notice, and to supersede the old General by his sudden appearance in the house. The first words he uttered were, " *nous sommes libres, b—e;* arrah, " blood and wounds, boys, is there none " of you who can sing *God save the* " *King?*"—and after a short pause, " then,

" by

" by Jasns," says he, " since that is the " case, I must sing it myself." He accordingly jumped on the stage from the upper row of boxes, and was getting forward tolerably well with his song, when poor Pat suddenly disappeared in the prompter's hole, to the vast entertainment of the audience; for, it may be presumed, he never calculated on the possibility of such a hole being placed nearly in the middle of the stage. It had however a good stage effect, and as he received no very material damage from his fall, he re-appeared and got through the song, supported by so many discordant voices and notes, as to leave the French musicians and actors much at a loss to know the real composition of English music.

A great many prisoners from the several dépôts marched through Gueret, having been liberated on the restoration of the Bourbons. They had been in sad distress, for

for want of money to forward them on their way, as the mode adopted by the French government was of a very economical nature; for they turned them loose without giving them any clothing, or paying any arrears that were due.

The poor fellows, after their long confinement, were naturally delighted, and never inquired or examined into consequences; so with a light heart and chearful disposition they proceeded for the nearest harbour, which was Bourdeaux, without a farthing to support them. My duty was to supply them with money and shoes, as far as I could procure them; but, as persons of their description are not in general very provident, they mostly drank out the money and sold the shoes. When elated with liquor they conceived all Frenchmen indiscriminately had been the authors of their long captivity and misfortune, the windows there-

fore of the inhabitants suffered severely; scarcely a pane of glass remaining unbroken in the town of Gueret. The interference of *gend'armes*, or military, was useless, as they could not be brought to act; and indeed they would have had little chance: yet as it was necessary to have a battle of some kind, they were obliged to fight among themselves. My old landlord informed me he had seen thirty-seven regular pitched battles, and asked me if this was really the usual mode of deciding differences of opinion in England? "But," says he, "what astonished me most was, their "friends, instead of separating the com-"batants, encouraged them." He also gave a half-finished description of a bottle-holder, but both the name and the character were so novel and extraordinary to him, that he was perfectly at a loss to know what to make of it.

A *gen-*

A *gend'arme* whom I afterwards met, well known among the English by the name of *Black George,* informed me he imagined that he had acquired some knowledge of the English character, after nearly eleven years constant study and experience; but must now confess himself equally as ignorant as when he commenced his studies.

CHAPTER LI.

Occurrences previous to leaving Gueret....Paris.... Blucher....English at Paris....Parallel between Henry IV. and Louis XVI. the first and last of the Bourbons, antecedent to the Revolution.

PREVIOUS to leaving my country house, near Gueret, my landlord (the Baron ——) wished to take a parting farewell, so came there, accompanied by two other gentlemen, one of whom was his son-in-law. Immediately I heard of his design to pay me a visit, I went intentionally out of the way, and desired the servant to say, I should not return until the following morning. So having gone to Gueret, I returned about seven o'clock in the evening, under the impression that they could not, with any

reason

reason or propriety, remain in my absence; when, to my surprise, I found them comfortably seated in the kitchen, getting the servant to dress them dinner. I could not avoid, with the least degree of propriety, inviting them to dine with me, of which invitation they chearfully accepted. Dinner was scarcely over, when the Baron proposed a game at cards; but committed himself so much by his anxiety on the occasion, that I began to suspect he had a strong desire to win my money; and therefore informed him it was not my intention to play that night. He commenced, however, to play with Monsieur de V——, in whose favour I made some bets, and won them. I soon perceived the Baron was greatly inferior as to skill or knowledge of the game either to his son-in-law or to Monsieur de V——, and I shortly after conceived I might ven-

ture to attack him myself; at the same time, however, high as my opinion might be as to those two gentlemen, I thought them too closely connected, both in relationship and friendship, for me as an Englishman to admit of their looking over my hand in a friendly manner; I therefore kept my cards very close; and by this precaution I was a very considerable winner, at which the Baron and his friends appeared seriously disappointed. The Baron, however, determined on making a coup by some means, inquired how much I would have for all my furniture on my departure? and concluded by offering me considerably under its value, supposing, from the situation in which I was placed, I was incapable of removing it. To which I answered, "Monsieur "le Baron, you are apparently much at-"tached to the cause of Louis XVIII. "therefore if you wish to see a handsome

"bonfire

" bonfire in honour of that Monarch's re-
" storation, you shall see it, provided I
" cannot sell the furniture to some advan-
" tage; and those pretty things, Monsieur
" le Baron, which you so much admire,
" shall contribute to create a blaze in com-
" memoration of the wonderful event."

The following day I advertised, by means of the town-crier, an auction at my house, and gave a grand account of every thing that was to be sold, and which I observed the purchasers were individually to take home. I also prepared a sumptuous breakfast, and notwithstanding all the exertions of the Baron to prevent attendance, there was an immense concourse of people from Gueret and various parts of the country, to visit my auction. They bid one against the other with great acrimony, for there were but few of them who had not some private dispute, and bore great animosity one towards an-

other, which terminated the affair so much in my favour, that the furniture, and various articles of little or no value, sold to an amount greatly exceeding my expectations. Such articles as the Baron contrived to prevent being sold, and which he calculated would fall to his share, I made a bonfire of, according to promise. My landlord being now in despair, furnished me with a most exorbitant bill, in which, among other charges, he demanded forty francs for a pony I had turned out (from his being lame), three or four times on a goose common, where it is well known there is nothing for a horse to eat. I thought it, however, advisable to pay the money, and we parted. I met the Baron soon after at the curious old General's at dinner, where, in my life, I never passed a more extraordinary day.

On the following morning, being the first of May, and Sunday, (a day which I prefer

fer for commencing a journey, because I conceive it lucky, and you have moreover the additional advantage of having the prayers of the Church in your favour) I took my departure for Paris. The roads were so very bad by La Chatre, that I sent the servants and carriage by a more circuitous road, and rode myself across paths and bye-roads until I reached that place. I must here observe, that great part of this road was on the banks of the river Creuse, and the scenes were pleasing and fanciful in the extreme, and only to be equalled by some of the picturesque views in Switzerland. The banks of the river were most formidable and steep, being composed of rocky precipices, covered in most places with hanging woods, at the bottom of which the Creuse rolls with great rapidity, and frequently down steep rocks and precipices, which creates romantic and beautiful

beautiful waterfalls, accompanied by an awful and murmuring noise. The fields were in the richest verdure, and as there were no inhabitants near, the *tout ensemble* had a solemn and imposing effect.

After leaving the town of Genouillat, I had to pass the same road I have already described. I conceived that the season of the year might have made a difference, and the road be better than when I last passed; but it was, if any thing, worse, being now of a sticky, glutinous nature, so that my horse found great difficulty in extricating his feet.

On my arrival at La Chatre the inhabitants were making great preparations to celebrate the Peace; and unfortunately for me there was a dance, which continued the whole night, next to my room. This town, however, was rather slow in bringing forward the festival; indeed, the inhabitants had

the

the character of being more attached to Buonaparte than the Bourbons, and I have observed this to be the case in most small towns. They are, however, more than counterbalanced by Paris, Bourdeaux, Lyons, Marseilles, &c. being in their favour.

On leaving La Chatre I went to Chateauroux, and from thence in a direct line to Orleans, where the following day there was a pompous procession, an illumination, and a great fête, in honour of the Pucelle, which, in this instance, embraced two objects, including that in honour of peace.

On my arrival at Paris I found it so crowded, that it was with much difficulty accommodation could be procured, but which I at last obtained at my old quarters, Hôtel du Rhin, Rue du Helder. Russians, Austrians, Prussians, and Cossacks, were in all quarters of the town; as well as about fourteen thousand English,

lish, all of whom had an opportunity of beholding these novel and extraordinary scenes; for who could have imagined to see guards mounted at Paris by Russians, Cossacks parading in triumph through the streets, and nothing to be seen but foreign costume and the most extraordinary dresses? The playhouses were so crowded, there was no obtaining a place, and it was the same with respect to the coffee-houses; I therefore found Paris very disagreeable after the novelty was over. I chanced to make a dinner party one day with seven of my countrymen, not one of whom could muster French enough to call for a spoon, but came much under the description that Boniface describes his master; "he says little, thinks less, and "does nothing at all; but then he's a gen-"man of large fortune, and cares for no-"body." Whenever I went to the Salon des Etrangers, or any place of public play,

old

old Blucher was sure to be there. He had been fortunate in the commencement, but I cannot say how his luck terminated; for my own part, though I won at first, I left Paris a considerable loser. In the play-houses you heard of nothing but the *bon Henri, vive Henri quatre, vivent les Bourbons.*

Nothing can possibly be a stronger lesson to instruct us in the uncertainty of human events, than the character and the fate of the first (Henry IV.) and last of that family (Louis XVI.) previous to the revolution. Henry the Third having died without issue, the branch of Valois became extinct in his person, and the succession to the Crown was Henry de Bourbon, King of Navarre, and the first of the Bourbon race. This Prince was born at Pau, in Bearn, on the 13th of December, 1553, of Antoine de Bourbon, Duc de Vendome,

and

and of Jean d'Albert, Queen of Navarre, which has since been the cause of the Kings of France being stiled "Roi de France et de "Navarre." He was descended in a right line from Robert de France, Comte de Clermont, and the sixth son of St. Louis. It was in the château of Coaroaze, situated in the middle of rocks, between Bijone and Bearn, that the young Henry received the first rudiments of his education, where he was sent by order of his grandfather, who died sixteen months after his birth. He was brought up to every hardship, fed on black bread and cheese, used to run across the Bearnois rocks bareheaded and barefooted, and from having acquired habits of regularity, moderation, and sobriety, added to this mode of education, became the ornament and the glory of France. He had a strength of mind likewise, and great foresight,

foresight, which taught him to know that kings were mortal, and but men.

It was Henry the Fourth that inspired France with that gallantry and sentiment, for which she was so conspicuous previous to the Revolution. Henry had to combat against a powerful enemy, in those times of fanaticism, for he was a protestant. The Duc d'Epernon and many of the noblesse retired from the scene, under pretence that they could not serve under a heretic. Others remained faithful, but the Duc de Mayenne was his bitterest enemy; he proclaimed the Cardinal de Bourbon, who was then a prisoner, under the title of Charles the Tenth; though Henry IV. was then besieging Paris. At the commencement of the siege the army consisted of about thirty thousand men in number; they were reduced by sickness and

other

other misfortunes to four or five thousand; so that Henry was forced to raise the siege and retire towards Dieppe. The Duke, and the army of the Ligue under his command, pressed him so close, that they said "the Bearnois (for that was his nickname), "had no chance but to throw himself into the "sea;" yet, after all their boasting, Henry at last gave them battle, which was called the battle of Arques, where he defeated an army eight times his force; and at the conclusion wrote to his friend the Duc de Crillon: "*pends-toi, brave Crillon;* "*nous avons combattus à Arques et tu* "*n'y étois pas!*" After this victory, having received a reinforcement of four thousand English, he spread terror at the gates of Paris, where they had falsely reported his defeat.

The Duc de Mayenne again attacked Henry,

Henry, and was defeated at Ivry, in the year 1590, which action of itself was enough to immortalize Henry.

Henry the Fourth possessed the means of obtaining every person's regard and respect. He was one of the most unassuming and pleasant companions in the world, full of wit, and fond of cheerful society; and although he might at times have given offence, he had the means of repairing that offence so as to convert it into friendship and esteem.

Schomberg, who commanded an auxiliary German force under Henry, desired to have the pay for his troops; the King, having no money, was vexed and irritated at this demand, and replied, "*jamais "homme de cour m'a demandé l'argent la "veille d'une bataille.*" Henry however, at the commencement of the battle, feeling that he had offended General Schomberg, addressed him as follows: "*Monsieur de*

" *Schomberg, je vous ai offensé; cette jour-*
" *née sera peut-être la dernière de ma vie;*
" *je ne veux point emporter l'honneur d'une*
" *gentilhomme; je connois votre mérite et*
" *votre valeur; je vous prie de me pardon-*
" *ner, et embrassez-moi.*" Schomberg replied, " *il est vrai que votre Majesté m'a*
" *blessé l'autre jour; aujourd'hui elle me*
" *tue, car l'honneur qu'elle m'a fait m'oblige*
" *de mourir en cette occasion pour son ser-*
" *vice.*"

The brave German on that day signalized himself, and proved his attachment and his valour, for he was in two hours after killed close to the King. Such traits are those of chivalry, and such is the real character of Frenchmen. How different to that which they assumed during the Revolution! how aukward and unnatural was their *grossièreté* to minds possessed of such refined sentiments!

Henry

Henry was equally conspicuous for his gallantry and his amours, as for his courage and his conduct in the field. Among many other favourites, we may reckon the beautiful and accomplished Gabrielle d'Estrees, Duchess of Beaufort. Henry lived for a long time separate from Marguerite de Valois; and his object was to obtain a divorce, and make Gabrielle his wife, which could not be accomplished. Gabrielle soon after dying, he became desperately enamoured with Henrietta, a daughter of the mistress of Charles the Ninth. She perfectly enslaved him, yet would not gratify him in any other manner but by a promise of marriage, to which he consented. The contract of marriage being signed, Henry shewed it to the great Sully, and asked his advice; when this courageous minister took the paper and tore it by way of reply.

"What," said the King in a rage, "are "you mad?"—"*Il est vrai, Sire, je suis* "*fou; je voudrois l'être si fort que je* "*fusse le seul en France.*" Sully had no expectation but of being immediately disgraced; the greatness of mind, however, of the King instantly promoted him to be grand master of the artillery. The Pope having, through Sully's intrigue, granted Henry a divorce, he shortly after contracted a match more worthy, and married, in the year 1600, Marie de Medicis, by whom he had issue Louis XIII. This great, this generous, this accomplished character was, when arrived at the summit of his grandeur (and on the eve of an expedition against the House of Austria, being detained for the coronation of the Queen, in the year 1610), basely assassinated by a desperate fanatic named Ravaillac, who was instigated by the priests. Thus perished, in the fifty-

seventh

seventh year of his age, the greatest prince Europe produced; and this was the fiftieth conspiracy formed against his life—so little do we know how to estimate great qualities! To him France is indebted for the Louvre and Pont Neuf, with various ornaments at Paris; the canal of Briare, which joins the Loire and the Seine, by this means opening the communication through France with the English Channel and the Atlantic Ocean. As Sully observed, "time, "which is the grand estimator of the "great qualities of this Prince, could only "be the means of developing his grand "projects and wonderful enterprises."

At the Louvre there are some fine pictures of this great monarch worthy the attention of travellers.

As to Louis the Sixteenth, his misfortunes are recent on our minds; though some particulars relative to his outset in life may have

escaped notice. At the time of his coming into the world the court was at Choisy, and the Dauphin was almost alone at Versailles; no splendour marked his birth, and the courier, who was commissioned to bear the news to the court, fell from his horse and died on the spot, without being able to discharge his office. Louis was immediately created Duc de Berri. When his father died in 1765, his grief was extreme; and when, in crossing the apartment, he heard for the first time, "way for the Dauphin!" he burst into tears and fainted.

His marriage with Marie Antoinette of Austria, the daughter of Maria Theresa, was celebrated under fatal auspices; for in the festival which the city of Paris gave on the occasion, more than four thousand people perished in the Place de Louis XV, pressed to death and suffocated for want of precaution;—the same place on which

which the unfortunate Louis was so foully murdered!

The Dauphin, greatly afflicted at this circumstance, for seven months sent part of his revenue to the lieutenant of police, for the relief of the victims of this unhappy affair. In 1774, when called to the throne by the death of his grandfather, he exclaimed, "oh, my God, what a misfor-" tune!"

I shall here beg leave to give an extract from the journal of Monsieur de Malesherbes, concerning the latter end of that good but unfortunate monarch.

"As soon," said he, "as I had permis-" sion to enter the King's apartment, I " hastened thither; and no sooner did he " perceive me than he rose from a little " table, on which a Tacitus lay before him " open; clasping me in his arms, while " his eyes were moistened with tears, he

" exclaimed, " your sacrifice is the more
" generous, as you expose your own life,
" and cannot save mine!" I represented
" there would be no danger, either for him
" or me, so easy was it to defend him
" successfully; to which he replied, " I
" am well convinced they will condemn
" me; they have both the power and the
" will; but be that as it may, let us busy
" ourselves with the cause as if I was to
" gain it; and in fact I shall, for I shall
" leave behind me an unspotted memory."
" Every day he assisted in examining pa-
" pers, explaining motives and refuting
" complaints, with a firmness of mind and
" a serenity which his defenders admired
" as much as I did. When Deseze had
" completed his defence, he read it to us,
" and never did I hear any thing more
" pathetic than a particular part of it; it
" affected us to tears. The King said to
" him,

" him, " this must be omitted, I will not
" work on their feelings." When the
" time of trial drew near, he one morning
" said to me, " my sister has told me of
" a good priest who has not taken the
" oaths, and whom his obscurity may even-
" tually save from persecution; this is his
" address; I request of you to go and
" speak to him, and to prepare him to
" come when I shall have obtained permis-
" sion to see him;" he added, " it is a
" strange commission for a philosopher, and
" such I know you to be, but if you suf-
" fered as much as I do, and if you were
" going to die as I am, I should wish you
" the same religious sentiments, which
" would console you more than philosophy."

" When I returned from the Assembly,
" where he had desired to appeal to the
" people, I informed him that on coming
" out I had been surrounded by a great

" number

" number of persons, who had all assured
" me he should not perish, or at least not
" till after them and their friends. He
" changed colour, and said to me, " do
" you know them? return to the Assem-
" bly, endeavour to discover some of them,
" declare to them I should never forgive
" them if one single drop of blood was
" shed for me; I would not suffer it to be
" shed when it might perhaps have pre-
" served my crown and my life; I do not
" repent it."—It was I who first acquaint-
" ed him that he was sentenced to die;
" he was in the dark, his back was turned
" towards a lamp that stood in the chim-
" ney, his elbows rested on a table, and
" his face was concealed in his hands; the
" noise I made awoke him, and, looking
" stedfastly at me, he rose and said, " I
" have been for two hours endeavouring
" to find out whether I have in the course

" of

" of my life merited the slightest reproof " from my subjects; now, Monsieur de " Malesherbes, I swear to you in all the " sincerity of my heart, as a man who is " going to appear before God, that I have " constantly desired the happiness of the " people, and have never formed a wish " contrary to it."—I saw this hapless mo- " narch once more, and assured him the " priest whom he desired to see was com- " ing; he embraced me, and said, " death " does not terrify me; I have the most " complete confidence in the mercy of " God."

On the 20th January, 1793, Louis without murmuring heard his sentence read, and imparted it to his family himself, that he might teach them resignation. At midnight he heard mass, threw himself on his bed, where he slept peacefully till awakened in the morning by his valet

let de chambre Clery, who came to dress him for the last time. At eight o'clock those who were to conduct him to the scaffold entered the apartment, and with a firm step he descended the tower stairs, crossed the court, casting a last glance towards the prison that contained his family; he got into the carriage with the Abbé Edgeworth beside him, and in two hours arrived at the Place de Louis XV. He ascended the scaffold, his hair was then cut off; he was undressed; an attempt was made to tie his hands; he refused, saying, "I am sure of myself;" but on being again urged he mildly held out his hands, and then advancing to the left side of the platform, he cried out with a loud voice, "Frenchmen, I die inno-
"cent; I forgive my enemies, and wish
"my death may be useful to France."

Santerre

Santerre then ordered a roll of the drums, which drowned his voice, and prevented him from finishing. " Go, Son of St. " Louis, ascend to Heaven !" said his confessor with enthusiasm, and the unfortunate monarch presented his head to the executioner. His body was conveyed to the burying ground of St. Magdalen, and according to the decree of the Convention, consumed in unslacked lime.

Frenchmen ! you have been acting a part for these last twenty-four years unnatural to your character; loyalty, honour, and attachment to your Sovereign, have ever been your leading features. Your legitimate monarch is now restored; the joy and enthusiasm expressed by all ranks and descriptions of people at Paris, and of which I was an eye-witness, convince me how sensible you are of this latter blessing. A due attention to morality, and

to

to the education of youth, are the only means likely to efface the dangerous and pernicious example that your rulers had set for so long a period; and, by devoting yourselves to habits of industry and commerce, you may be the happiest and most enviable people on earth. I have slightly descanted on parts of the characters of Henry the Fourth and Louis the Sixteenth, from my knowledge of your attachment and devotion to the Bourbons; and if it should appear in this narrative that I have with too much severity spoke of France, you will please to consider that I wrote at a period when your country assumed a fierce, turbulent, and oppressive character. Although your soldiers have been led and worked upon by the very worst of men, yet they always retained their character for generosity and bravery as an enemy.

CHAPTER LII.

Emperor of Russia.... General Sebastiani .... Lord Castlereagh .... Cossacks .... Verdun .... Sedan .... Valenciennes .... Jemmapes .... Brussels .... Ghent....Ostend....Calais....England.

In the course of my walks I met with the Russian General Poltoradski, whom I accompanied to Count Orloff's. The latter addressed me in the politest and kindest manner, alluding to the great obligations his countrymen were under to the British Government, for affording their officers and soldiers relief, while prisoners, and complimenting me on the part I had taken. To which I replied that, " I acted merely as an " individual on that occasion, not having " any positive authority; but I was satisfied " that had I then had the means of a direct " communication with his Majesty's minis-

" ters,

" ters, there would have been no bounds to " their liberality to so great a people, who " had made such sacrifices towards the ac- " complishment of the wonderful change " which had been effected in the state of the " world." I had afterwards the honour of being introduced by Lord Cathcart to the Emperor of Russia, who seemed acquainted with these circumstances, and addressed me with the most affable and obliging attention.

I met General Sebastiani, by accident, on the Boulevards. He informed me he had heard of my being at Paris, and said, " you " must instantly come home with me, to " make you sensible of the arrangements I " had made for you." On my arrival at his house I saw ten covers laid for dinner, and among the names written on the plates I perceived my own : " there," said he, " dine or not, no other person shall " occupy that place so long as you remain

" at

" at Paris. My Staff consider you as one " of themselves; since you left us they " have continually talked of you, and a " standing toast for some time was your " health." To which I replied, " really, " General, I feel so much flattered that I " know not how to express myself. I can " only say, that your attention, and that " of your staff, who are of the first descrip- " tion of gentlemen, possessing qualities the " most rare, has made an impression on me " never to be effaced; and I confess I felt " myself so much at ease from their ex- " treme politeness, that when among them " I frequently launched out into follies and " eccentricities that caught their fancy, so " that I became more their companion than " their prisoner; for we all gave scope to " the same fancies, and however limited " the means might have been at Grenada, " certainly we cannot plead that excuse at

" Paris." I regretted not having it in my power that day to dine with the General, as I was engaged to Lord Castlereagh; where I had the honour of meeting the Prince of Orange, with several Dutch, English and foreign gentlemen of distinction. The entertainment was extremely splendid, and such as should be given by the representative of Great Britain. In this instance, I was most agreeably disappointed in Lord Castlereagh; having conceived that from his intense application to parliamentary and other official engagements, it might have been presumed he was not quite *au fait* at such etiquette as his new situation required; but I must do his lordship the justice to observe, that in his solicitous attention to the company, he displayed that ease and affability, united with dignity, which were perfectly characteristic of the high station

tion he was fulfilling, and which reflected infinite honour, both on himself and his country. The conspicuous urbanity of Lady Castlereagh's manners need not my eulogium.

Among the curiosities I saw at Paris, none amazed me more than the Théâtre Mécanique de Monsieur Pierre, and I recommend it to those particularly who find themselves disposed to pay attention to such works of art.

After quitting Paris I again visited Verdun, to look after some property I had left there, consisting of two houses, wine, furniture, &c. and found they escaped much better than I could have expected. Indeed, the Cossacks, on whom they bestow every epithet that is possibly bad, are the most inoffensive and harmless beings in the world. The Baskirs and Calmucks are so lazy that they would not give themselves the trouble to plunder. The Baskirs are armed with bows and arrows, which at this period of

civilization surprised me. They were almost naked and miserable in the extreme, both as to themselves and their horses, and extremely ugly. To discern their eyes you must look under them, and their general resemblance one to another is so strong, that you would imagine they were all of the same parents. The same may be observed of those who were selected for England by the Emperor of Russia. In the morning a sort of kettleor machine is sounded, when the troop all assemble at the window of their chief, where they sing hymns to the Almighty, and in praise of their commander, who is particular as to the muster; and this is all the parade or ceremony required. One of their chiefs made signs to me signifying they were all his own property, both men and horses. I should conceive them a sad incumbrance to any army. Their horses, which

are

are miserable, go with their heads near the ground, and have a piece of wood for a bit in their mouths. They appeared scarce able to crawl along, and yet suddenly displayed great agility and made very rapid movements. Indeed, every thing about these people surprised me; they were so unlike whatever I had seen before. I overtook them on their return to Russia, Verdun being the direct line.

I had heard much of the mischief done to the country during the campaign, but was much surprised to find so little, considering the sharp encounters which had taken place, and the towns and country being alternately in possession of the French and the Allies. Some bridges were blown up, and some villages burnt, but nothing of consequence in comparison to what the French merited for their excesses in other countries.

Soon after my arrival in Verdun I had an opportunity of seeing the worthy family of Monsieur Gaud, he having gone on an embassy, with others, to congratulate Louis XVIII. on the restoration of his family. I collected from the general sentiments of the Verdunois, that they were strongly in favour of Napoleon, and hostile to the Bourbons; which, however, were soon changed, by Louis XVIII. sending and judiciously distributing amongst them sixteen white ribbons, and sixteen little pieces of silver, representing a fleur de lis, in value about thirty sous, or fifteen pence, which I have seen termed in the newspapers, "the Order "of the Lilly."

I purchased the château at Arnumon, where I formerly resided. It is an antient building, beautifully situated on the borders of the Meuse, and the walls so thick

that

that small apartments are excavated in their centre. The gardens belonging to the château are very extensive, in addition to which I purchased a tolerable quantity of land. I have besides the entire liberty of the chace, and the right of cutting more wood than I can possibly burn in the course of the year. This estate, where I can bathe and fish in the Meuse, may afford me, I conceive, a pleasant retreat for a few months in the summer season, or whenever I may feel inclined to visit France.

I set out on my journey to England in wet and rain, which continued three days. My intention was to go through Holland, but I discovered, by letters, that my presence was required at home; added to which, there would have been a sad inconvenience in passing through Holland, as I understood the accommodations were

very bad, and the charges extremely exorbitant.

In going through Sedan I had the curiosity to inspect the fortress, so celebrated for being the place of punishment of those English prisoners who attempted to make their escape from other dépôts. Nothing could be more formidable than the place of confinement for these poor fellows, in the citadel or château, which is situated nearly in the centre of the town. To arrive at this abode of systematic torture, you have to pass wo very extensive covered ways, the latter of which is very steep, and cut through a solid rock. On the entering, you perceive a cell allotted to each person; no communication being ever permitted one with another. The doors of their prison are double, and secured with bars in all directions. Should any one

one escape out of his cell, the wall to descend in the lower part is about one hundred and sixty feet deep; and having once attained that point, he has to climb over prodigious rocks, and walls formed out of immense heights, surrounded by centinels at short and convenient intervals.

For a stranger to look at these precautions, he would suppose it next to an impossibility to escape; but such is the powerful incentive to liberty, that I have seen and known many common soldiers and sailors, who have escaped from these prisons, without even the assistance of money to clear a passage; and almost all of whom, after having surmounted these difficulties, and obtained the summit of their wishes, uniformly committed themselves by some act of intemperance or folly.

I re-

I recollect an instance worthy reciting of a soldier belonging to the 61st regiment, a native of the north of Ireland, who wrote me a note, wishing to see me at the Porte Chaussée Prison in Verdun. On my going there he observed, " I am sorry " to be so troublesome to your honour, for " this is the fifth time I have troubled your " honour within these last fifteen months; " and three times I have escaped from the " citadel of Sedan. If your honour will " look at the state of my limbs you will " see how they are worn to the bone; and " I have, an please your honour's honour, " been confined in cells under ground; but " I have always contrived to make my es- " cape: neither could all the prisons in " France contain me, was it not for my " own foolishness as soon as I get out. If " your honour will but look at the pair of " handcuffs, or bracelets, with which I

" am

" am now ornamented, you may judge." Then taking me a little on one side he disengaged himself from these encumbrances with a dexterity which I did not conceive possible, and again replaced his hands in the situation in which they previously were.

Sedan contains a population of about ten thousand inhabitants, and is remarkable for its manufacture of superfine cloths.

Previous to my arrival there. I passed by the town of Mouzon, leaving it a little to the left: it is celebrated for manufacturing the finest cloths in France.

From Sedan I proceeded over a fertile country, but great part of the way along very bad roads, passing though the town of Mezieres, a fortification strong from its flat situation and natural position, although not in very good repair. I slept at a most abominable place called La Capelle, where I met some persons who dealt largely in cambricks, from

St.

St. Quintin, and had much conversation concerning that trade. I passed likewise the fortifications of Landrecy and Quesnoy, which were so celebrated during the campaign of the Duke of York and the Prince of Saxe-Cobourg, since which period the science of warfare must be much improved; for had the Allies wasted their time and resources against several fortifications in their progress, Napoleon would in all probability have been at present on the throne of France. I could not however pass over this country without feeling interested from having heard so much about it, and having marched and countermarched through various parts in Flanders during the Duke of York's campaign. On my arrival at Valenciennes I put up at the Grand Canard, of which I had heard a good account; but was much disappointed, as it was very uncomfortable, with large straggling rooms, and

very

very dirty. I was soon waited on, and invited to dine with Monsieur Fazeau, the banker, and his brother, which invitation I accepted, and in the evening went to a concert of amateurs, or gentlemen performers, at the public rooms, where the music was delightful. Monsieur Fazeau took a leading part in the concert, and performed with the greatest applause. I was rather surprised to find so many acquaintances in a place which to me was quite new. Among them I was accosted by my old friend, Colonel Cosini, who was the second in command of this garrison, and chief of the engineer department. Colonel Cosini, I have already remarked, was head of the engineer department with General Sebastiani. He was an excellent officer in his line, and from whom I derived much information in Spain. On leaving Valenciennes the landlord was determined to

make

make me pay *comme un véritable Milord*, for my bill was enormous. The best plan I conceived was to pay; but I suggested to my friend Cosini, (as the inhabitants were complaining much of the expenses incurred by having so many soldiers quartered on them) that he must certainly be wealthy, if we might judge by his mode of making out a bill, and therefore such a burthen, however grievous it might be upon others, must be light to him. The result was, he had forthwith thirty additional soldiers quartered on him, which gratified my spleen, and gave me ample revenge of my landlord, who then begged me to admit of his making a deduction from the bill, which I positively refused, observing that, "*Messieurs les Milords Anglois* had the "character of generosity, and I could not "think of being the means of depreciating "them in the French opinion."

From

From Valenciennes I proceeded on my journey over a very rich country and paved road, until I arrived at the town of Mons, where I rested for the night. My servants preceded me with the carriage, as I had a great desire to ride over the ground and position of Jemmapes, where Dumourier gained that important victory, which awakened the eyes of Europe in some measure as to the danger to be apprehended from *carmagnoles*, who, until that battle, the grave tacticians and mustacio'd chiefs of the North treated with severe sarcasms and sovereign contempt. The French, however, have taught the world an awful lesson, as to the imprudence of despising an enemy: and sincerely do I hope that our rulers in England may not, in like manner, hold the Americans too cheap, which may cause a long and disastrous warfare; for I know personally many French officers who

who have embarked their fortunes in the American cause, although not by the consent of the French government.

From Mons I proceeded the following morning to Brussels. Along the road the peasantry and various persons were inquisitive to know to whom their country was to belong? a question it was not in my power satisfactorily to answer.

On my arrival at Brussels I met many of my old acquaintances in the English army, who were quartered there. My first visit being to the parade, I was highly gratified to see the troops in such excellent order.

There were several English families, and many more expected, most of whom I believe have retired to this part of the world for economy.

Lord Lyndock commanded, whose absence I had to regret, he being then in England,

but

but was expected the following day. I dined with General Fraser, and met many of my old acquaintance. From Brussels I took my departure for Ghent, along a charming road and very rich country. On passing through Alost I had the curiosity to go over the ground on which I was engaged in an action in the army under Lord Moira. The country was nearly the same, with very little alteration. I recollected every spot, and went to the position we occupied, even to the hedge we had partly cut down to admit of our musquetry. From Alost I reached Ghent, being but a short distance, and over a very fine road; and was soon recognized and waited on by an English gentleman, who had been long resident here and at Ostend. There was a Prussian garrison in the city, consisting of about five thousand troops, all well clothed and appointed, in English clothing; one corps in particular I remarked, from being dressed in all re-

spects precisely the same as the 95th regiment. These troops, however, had not a military appearance, being aukward in their discipline, young, and not well set up.

On the following morning I had an opportunity of seeing the total of the force under arms, to receive the Emperor of Russia. There was a violent rain, which continued almost the whole of the day, under which the authorities as well as the troops all paraded. The several corporate bodies, &c. marched out, dressed in silk stockings, with bands of curious looking musicians, to congratulate his Majesty on his arrival at Ghent. Although I could not but admire their public spirit, yet I pitied their situation, for the rain poured in torrents on these full drest and highly powdered people. The Emperor at length arrived, after having detained them some hours. He received the authorities and corporate bodies in a large tent, erected for the purpose, at the gate entering

entering the town; and then mounted on horseback, and gallopped through all the streets, preceded by a well appointed detachment of Prussian hussars, amidst the shouts and applauses of a numerous body of people. Alexander took off his hat at intervals, and huzzaed also, although going at speed, in a very severe rain. His Majesty, I understood, immediately took his departure for Antwerp.

I had the curiosity soon after to visit the cathedral, which is a handsome and very noble building, well worthy the notice of any traveller who may visit Ghent. There is one small figure of an Angel, cut in marble, on the right side of the altar, which has been much admired for its perfection, and for which more than its weight in gold has been several times refused. In the course of this day, about twenty-five thousand French troops arrived, on their road from Hamburgh to France, composing

I part of the Prince d'Ekmuhl's army. have seldom seen a more soldierlike, or, in all respects, a better appointed body of men, or more calculated for service. Their artillery and all their appointments corresponded, being in excellent order, although after a very fatiguing march.

On leaving the town of Ghent I was accosted by a hearty comfortable looking landlord, who addressed me in bad English, and insisted on my entering his house, which was situated at the extremity of the canal, for the accommodation of canal passengers; his rooms were spacious, commodious, and well fitted up. I promised him that when I again visited Ghent I would stop at his house and smoke a pipe. He insisted on my tasting his Hollands and liquors, which were very good; and, what is rather strange in a Fleming, refused to accept money.

On my arrival at the ancient town of Bruges

Bruges I found it full of Prussian troops, and it was with difficulty I procured accommodation. The Prussian soldiers indeed are so much complained of, from their exorbitant demands in their quarters, that it has created dissatisfaction bordering on insurrection; they pay for nothing, and are extremely nice in their palate, demanding delicacies in addition to their sustenance with a haughty and imperious tone. The landlord of the inn had acted as an assistant commissary in the army in which I served under his Royal Highness, and we had much conversation relative to past events. I accidentally met in the coffee-room a respectable looking elderly gentleman, who offering his services and being communicative, I invited to take some wine and smoke a segar after dinner. His conversation turning on the entertainment given to the Emperor of Russia, the King of Prussia, and the other illustrious foreigners, in Lon-

don, he was anxious to know who were the Merchant Taylors who gave this grand fête? for it appeared that both he and the French newspapers had blended and confounded the dinner as being given *by* the Merchant Taylors, instead of the Merchants, Bankers, &c. of the City *at* Merchant Taylors' Hall. I excited much interest by giving him a description and history of the several corporate bodies in London, with an account of the rights and privileges attached to each; and I observed him particularly interested concerning the Taylors. As it was the first time of my life I had heard a taylor described as a fine fellow, I was induced to pump him a little more, when I discovered my friend to be a taylor himself.

In the morning I pursued my journey chiefly along the banks of the canal, until I reached Ostend, the distance not exceeding twelve miles. An English garrison was here, and I was well acquainted with the

the commandant, who was Lieutenant-Colonel of the 44th, then composing part of it. He introduced me to a Prussian General of Engineers, who was just arrived from England, and was anxious to see the works round the town, which the French certainly have spared neither pains nor expense to render formidable. The situation in some parts being flat, is much in their favour; they are greatly extended, and the old works entirely destroyed; it would now require a considerable force to defend them. At a handsome bridge close to the town is a very large basin of water, formed by the French, and connected with the Bruges canal, for the purpose of deepening the entrance for shipping. The floodgates are constructed on a very simple and ingenious principle, so that one person with the greatest ease opens or shuts them, and they are worthy a traveller's attention. When these locks are open the water rushes

out with prodigious force, forming a violent torrent and cascade, occasioned by a descent or fall from twenty to twenty-four feet. This goes forward with great rapidity to the sea, sweeping in its course quantities of mud and other obstructions, and has the effect, by this means, of deepening the harbour, or at all events prevents its being choked by sand or mud, which otherwise would accumulate.

A little farther on are the locks that had been destroyed by the expedition commanded by Sir Eyre Coote, but which were now re-established on a better and more solid principle. We passed over a drawbridge, and proceeded across the sand hills to visit the fort lately completed to the eastward of the town, to prevent an enemy making an attack on that side. It must, without doubt, have cost an immense deal of money, from the difficulty of obtaining a foundation, being built on the sand. It is constructed entirely

entirely of brick, and the ditches are extremely deep; it mounts many guns of various calibre, and is a regular pentagon; its casemates, under ground-works and magazines, are spacious and commodious, and I think, for its size, it is the most perfect and handsome fortification I ever met with. It is commanded, however, by several sand hills within musquet shot, which would disturb the artillery stationed to work the guns; but I have understood it was the intention of the French to have removed these hills, had they kept this position. Go into any country you please where the French have governed, you find their public works and institutions greatly add to its civilization and improvement.

The commandant invited the General and myself to partake of a mess dinner, to which we acceded; the object was to amuse the Prussian, who was a polite and well bred man. We had much interesting conversation,

tion, but were frequently interrupted with the band of music continually playing; for in English regimental messes the rule is to introduce the band, without consulting whether the musicians are good or bad performers. To amuse the Prussian still more, a soldier was sent for who had some humour, and was a great adept at singing comic songs. His figure was in his favour, and his face likewise, having lost an eye, and being much marked by the small pox, and knowingly warped on one side. His songs required a person to be acquainted with slang terms and phrases; but unfortunately the General understood very few words of English, and could not appreciate the merits of these curious notes. On my departure the Prussian officer accompanied me to my hotel, to smoke a segar, where he remarked, although in a polite manner, the whims and curious circumstances of *John Bull;* and gave me a description of the

manner

manner the Sovereigns and the illustrious visitors passed their time in England. What struck him most forcibly was his visit to Woolwich, which he was much surprised to find so abundantly supplied, after having so long furnished the whole world, with means of destruction. He much admired the handsome equipages, and the Bank; but observed that in public buildings France had greatly the superiority.

From Ostend I pursued my journey along the coast to Dunkirk and Calais; from whence I took my passage to England.

APPENDIX.

Letters respecting the Expedition.

No. I.

Gibraltar, October 9, 1810.—10 *A.M.*

MY DEAR SIR,

You will be pleased to consider that the Sparrowhawk, which is a fast sailer, leaves this to-morrow at an early hour; she will be at Mirabella by two o'clock with the arms. As there may be no one to receive them, they will be at a loss how to act; pray mention to Colonel Basset the necessity of your being there at that hour, if possible; and that Molina organizes the country so as to protect flanks from Rondo, Antequera, &c. &c.; much depends on it. I expect we shall land near Malaga early on Friday morning at day-break. You may see us, and the assistance of Molina will be indispensable with us in going into Malaga,

Malaga, in the direction set forth. He and you must arrange the distribution of the peasantry in the intermediate line between Ronda and Antequera, totally unconnected with, but at the same time corresponding with, our movements.

I am, &c. &c.

(Signed) BLAYNEY, Major-General.

N.B. Twenty-four mules or horses, to assist in the transport of artillery, must be provided.

To Captain Miller, &c. &c.

No. II.

Topaze at Sea, October 11, 1810.

SIR,

I beg leave to send you two hundred weight of tobacco and three hundred pair of shoes, for the use of the foreigners who accompany the expedition.

You must appoint some person to act as Quarter-master Serjeant, and to distribute the shoes only to those who want them. You will assure them I place every confidence in their valour and good conduct. I have no doubt of success, and they may rest satisfied their exertions will be rewarded by the British nation.

The

The French army of Portugal has met with a complete defeat under the command of Marshal Massena; they attacked the British line at every point, and were every where defeated with loss.

I must particularly direct the attention of the foreign troops to the abstaining from plunder. They shall want for nothing that the nature of the service can afford; I therefore expect they may exert a spirit and pride amongst them, so as to keep a watch upon each other's conduct, and prevent my having recourse to unpleasant measures. Any instance of that nature which may happen shall be severely punished; the offender shall be instantly stripped of the British uniform as unworthy of it, his arms taken from him, and left to the mercy of those he has injured. I hope and feel confident there will be no necessity for such an expedient, and that you will particularly impress upon their minds the confidence I repose in them, which confidence is confirmed by his Excellency Lieutenant General Campbell sending British officers to command them, who have gallantly volunteered their services, and are determined to share their fate.

I have the honour to be,

&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) BLAYNEY, Major-General.

To Major M'Donald.

No. III.

To the Inhabitants of Malaga.

His Excellency Lieutenant-General Colin Campbell, Lieutenant-Governor of Gibraltar, having with the spirit and magnanimity worthy his character, and truly worthy the generosity of the British nation, who keeps fleets and armies always employed merely for the protection of the helpless and oppressed, has, with the tenderness and affection of a parent, sent me with a force to relieve the good people of Malaga from French tyranny.

My instructions and inclinations are to protect your property, relieve you from your sufferings, and respect your laws. As your friend, I must now address you with candour. For ten months you have permitted an insignificant French force, never exceeding twelve hundred men, to keep possession of your capital, when your population exceeded twenty thousand, which conduct forms a striking contrast to those glorious periods of your history, when your ancestors, by perseverance, courage, and constancy, not to be subdued during three hundred years, finally succeeded in expelling the Moors from your territory. I therefore call upon you in the name of your holy religion,

in

in the glorious and immortal fame which your ancestors acquired, and above all for your self-preservation, to stand forward in support of your own cause. The artillery shall be directed only against your enemies; the enemies of order and charity. But if you remain tame spectators, and make no exertions in your own defence, I must (although reluctantly) consider your neutrality as inimical, and point the guns against your fair city. All persons who may have come from Gibraltar and enrolled themselves in the ranks of the enemy are graciously pardoned.

All inhabitants who have hitherto borne arms in their support are graciously pardoned, satisfied that nothing but terror and compulsion can induce them to act so unworthy a part.

I therefore wait your decision; and may the Almighty, who always favours the cause of the righteous and just, take you into his holy keeping.

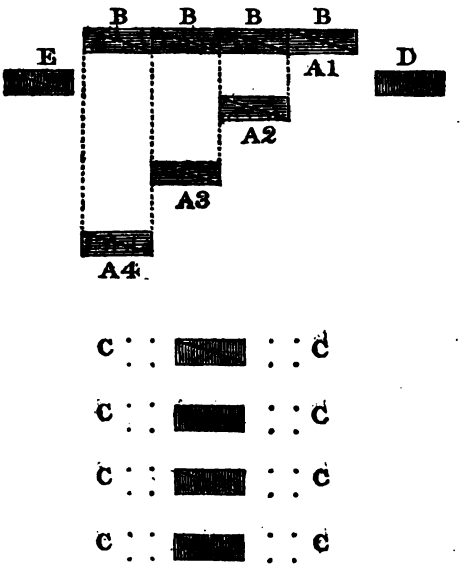
Given on board His Majesty's Ship Topaze,
at ——— this day of ———.

(Signed) BLAYNEY, Major-General.

No. IV.

In order that there may be no mistakes, but one complete understanding and co-operation between the forces

forces embarked, the following sounds on the bugle must direct the movements of the troops:



On the signal to advance, the two leading divisions of riflemen form four subdivisions, as A, A, A, A, extended en échellon. The third and fourth, or rear subdivisions, to extend from right to left, so that the right of the third subdivision covers the left hand man of division, No. 1, and covers the left flank of the column.

The front and leading subdivision covers the right flank of ditto, and the second the head of the column. When attacked, the second subdivision advances to

support the first on its left, the third and fourth to support those of ditto, forming one line, as B, B, B, B.

On the flank of each company of the entire line, are to be told off two file, as steady light troops, which are to guard the flanks of their respective companies, C, C.—On the sound to commence firing, all the flankers to the right of companies run forward, and form line, or take advantage of ground to the right of the leading division; all those on the left flank form to the left of the riflemen, as D and E.

The foreign troops push forward in the éventail, or fair movement, so as to form line on the left.

The 89th form to the right, taking advantage of ground, and acting in line as nearly as possible. The rifle and light troops only are to be in extended order, the others as usual in regiments for close files. The Spanish regiment of Toledo to form a reserve in rear of the centre, so as to act as the exigency of the occasion may require.

All advances or retreats are to be from the right of companies by files. Thus there are to be only four sounds on the bugle with which the soldiers are to be made acquainted on board ship. They are as follow:

1. Signal to advance.
2. Commence firing.

3. Form

3. Form line.

4. Retire.

Form line in retreating. Do so in retreating. Steady and intelligent men must be placed on pivot flanks.

The guns will act as occasion may require. If the column should be attacked on the left, the bugle sounds form line, in which case left wheel into line; therefore it is the rear rank acting in front, as they will be often changed, which shews front in all points that can be possibly attacked. If on the right, right wheel into line.

No. V.

To his Excellency Lieutenant-General Campbell.

SIR,

It is impossible to relate the misfortune which happened to the expedition, which you did me the honour to place under my command, without concern. On the 15th I had reason to expect an attack, having received information of large reinforcements being on their march, under the command of General Sebastiani. I accordingly gave orders to change our position, so as to have our right to Fiangerolla, and left on a strong ridge of hills, with the sea close to our rear, and both

flanks guarded by gun-boats; a position, I conceived, capable of resisting any effort the enemy could have made. During this period I went to the rear, to arrange with Captain Hall the gun-boats' station; when I heard an attack was made, chiefly directed against the left, where the foreign troops were posted, who fled without resistance. The 89th were in front, employed in procuring provisions, and the enemy possessed themselves of our artillery. I instantly formed the 89th regiment, consisting of only two hundred and eighty rank and file, and proceeded to retake the guns, in which I was most gallantly supported by that corps, and succeeded after a resolute charge; the enemy fled in disorder. On the left it was cried out, "they are "Spaniards;" their dress was precisely the same, and I was cautious of firing until I could ascertain the fact. My horse being previously shot, I could not go by the rear to the left, so as to ascertain it, and was obliged to go in front. During this period, a desperate body closed in from the left, and so heavy a fire ensued, that those around me were mostly killed and wounded; resistance on my part was useless, and I was forced to surrender.

I learned afterwards, with concern, that the guns had again been taken, and the troops forced to retreat.

I left

I left them in their possession, and I can see no reason why they were abandoned. Had my misfortune not happened, my intention was to have taken that position instantly, which I hesitate not in saying, would have secured us a safe and honourable retreat. The information was so various and incorrect, no dependance could be placed on it, neither would it have been prudent further to pursue the object of the expedition, from the vast superiority of the enemy's force.

From General Sebastiani and the French officers I have met with the greatest attention; but, Sir, I shall never again enjoy one happy moment, only in the consolation, that I have done my duty, and that my conduct personally may meet your Excellency's approbation.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(*Signed*) BLAYNEY, Major-General.

Malaga, 17th October, 1810.

No. VI.

Grenada, 8th November, 1810.

SIR,

I wrote to your Excellency a hasty account from Malaga, relative to the proceedings of the expe-

dition which you did me the honour of placing under my command; which account was confined to the transactions of the 15th of October only, not being equal (from my sufferings, owing to the bruises I had received when taken, and want of accommodation) to write with that precision which a matter of that nature required.

I avail myself of an escort going to Malaga, to relate to your Excellency the proceedings as nearly as possible.

Having received the Spanish regiment of Toledo on board at Ceuta, after a tedious passage we landed on the 14th of October at Calle de la Morale, a small bay, one league eastward of Marebella, and two distant from Fiangerolla. We proceeded over a difficult and mountainous country, until we came opposite the castle of Fiangerolla. Immediately on my arrival, I sent in a flag of truce, which was refused, and the enemy commenced a heavy fire on our gun-boats, sunk one, and killed and wounded many of our soldiers in others; on which I advanced close to the works, with the Germans and 89th, when a warm fire of musquetry commenced, supported by grape from the fort. In this contest, I lament to inform your Excellency that Major Grant, of the 89th, was mortally wounded (since dead), with several others. We succeeded, however, in silencing the guns,

so as to admit the boats taking a station. During a severe night of thunder and rain, the artillery, consisting of one thirty-two pound carronade and two twelve pounders and a howitzer with two swivels were landed. Early next morning, a heavy and destructive fire commenced on both sides.

I ascertained by our advanced piquets, that the enemy in the course of the night had received large reinforcements, and I had information of a considerable army being on their march from Malaga, under the command of General Sebastiani; I accordingly, as I had already the honour of mentioning to your Excellency, gave orders to change our position, our right to Fiangerolla, and left on a strong ridge of hills with the sea close to our rear, and both flanks protected by gun-boats; a position I conceived capable of resisting any effort the enemy could have made.

I had been arranging a disposition for the gun-boats, when I heard an attack was made chiefly directed against the left, where the foreign troops were posted, and the enemy possessed themselves of our artillery. I instantly formed the 89th regiment, consisting of only two hundred and eighty men, and retook the guns with the bayonet. On the left an irregular force advanced, dressed precisely the same as the Spanish

troops, and it was called out they were Spaniards. My horse being previously shot, I could not go by the left sufficiently rapid to ascertain the fact, and obliged to go by the front, when a desperate body closed in from the left, and so heavy a fire commenced that those around me were mostly killed and wounded; here a warm contest ensued, chiefly with the bayonet, and I was obliged to surrender, having but nine men remaining on the hill.

I learned afterwards, with concern, that the guns had again been taken, and the troops forced to retreat.

I lament my misfortune the more, Sir, as had it not happened, my intention was to have instantly taken up the position, which I have the confidence to think would have secured a safe and honourable retreat.

The information was so incorrect, no dependance could be placed on it. It is the misfortune of this country that their zeal has a tendency to mislead; what one asserts, the other generally contradicts. I believe the opinion was, that General Blake was in sufficient force to keep the French in check so as to prevent their leaving Grenada; whereas I have since ascertained, that the advanced post of that army was at Valley Rubro, distant twenty-six Spanish leagues from Grenada;

nada; and the head-quarters at Murcia, distant fifty-two leagues.

I cannot form an opinion of the impression which the want of success may make on your Excellency's, or the public mind; the original intelligence was most favourable, nor could the arrival of General Sebastiani's army have been foreseen. I therefore hope my exertions, though personally unfortunate, from meeting such a superiority of force, compared to those of the British, may meet your Excellency's approbation.

General Sebastiani's conduct to me, and that of his officers, does credit to his nation.

Captains Hope, Hall and Pringle, of the Navy, with Lieutenant Carrol, and the officers commanding the gun-boats, performed their part with the zeal and intrepidity which has hitherto distinguished that service.

I have the honour to be,

&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) BLAYNEY, Major-General.

To his Excellency Lieut.-General Campbell,

&c. &c. &c.

MINISTÈRE DE LA GUERRE—5ME DIVISION—BUREAU DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE—REPRÉSAILLES.

A Monsieur le Colonel Soyer, commandant le Dépôt de Verdun.

MONSIEUR, *Paris*, 6 *Mars*, 1812.

Sa Majesté informée que le gouvernement Anglois a fait mettre le Général Simon, prisonnier de Guerre François en prison, m'a prescrit de faire arrêter sur le champ le Lord Blayney. Vous le ferez détenir à la citadelle de Verdun, et vous lui notifierez qu'il répondra sur sa tête de la conduite de son gouvernement envers le Général François. S'il désire écrire à cet égard en Angleterre, ses lettres seront adressées sans retard au Ministre de la Marine pour leur transmission.

Vous me rendrez compte sur le champ de l'exécution de cet ordre. Recevez, Monsieur, l'assurance de ma considération.

(Signé) LE DUC DE FELTRE, *Ministre de la Guerre.*

(Pour copie conforme.)—Le Colonel Baron de BEAUCHÊNE, commandant le dépôt des prisonniers de guerre Anglois. *(Signé)* SOYER.

Copy of a Letter from Major-General Lord Blayney to the Earl of Liverpool.

MY LORD, *March* 8, 1812.

I beg leave to inform your Lordship that I am this moment put in close confinement, by order of the

the French Government, in consequence of the French General Officer, Simon, being arrested by the British, for what cause I have not been informed. The order fo my arrestation in part runs thus:—*De faire arrêter sur le champ le Lord Blayney; vous le ferez détenir à la citadelle de Verdun, et lui notifierez qu'il répondra sur sa tête de la conduite de son gouvernement envers le Général François.*

Whatever may be the cause of Gen. Simon's arrest, I hope the British government will be pleased to consider how unjust it is that I should be the victim of any rash or imprudent act on the part of that General.

I therefore submit it to your Lordship's consideration, in hopes that steps may be taken suited to relieve me from my present situation.

I have the honour to remain, &c. &c.

(Signed) BLAYNEY, Major-General.

To the Right Hon. the Earl of Liverpool.

Copy of a Letter from Major-General Lord Blayney to Messrs. Coutts and Co.

Citadel of Verdun, March 12, 1812.

GENTLEMEN,

As Lord Caledon, or none of my friends, may be in London, I request you will inform them, by letter

letter, that I am now a close prisoner, by order of the French government, and their orders are executed with the utmost rigour.

I wrote a letter to Lord Liverpool, and another to the Duke of York, at the desire of the French government, (perhaps they have never been forwarded); I therefore beg leave to inclose you a copy, nearly similar to each, which I will thank you to send to His Royal Highness and Lord Liverpool, lest the originals may not have been received; with this observation, which of course I could not send through the Minister of Marine here, that however great my sufferings may be (and I can assure you they are now very severe), that I hope they may never be considered in competition with the dignity and honour of the country.

I have the honour to remain, &c. &c.

(Signed) BLAYNEY, Major-General.

Copy of a Letter from Major-General Lord Blayney to the Baron de Beauchêne, Commanding the Dépôt of Prisoners of War, at Verdun.

MONSIEUR LE BARON,

Vous avez sans doute remarqué l'observation que Monsieur le Général Lacoste a écrite sur mon passeport; il ne m'appartient pas d'anticiper sur le jugement

jugement que vous-même, Monsieur le Baron, porterez sur cette affaire; mais vous voudrez cependant me permettre de vous dire, que la manière dont j'ai été reçu par Monsieur le Général Lacoste ne fait honneur ni à son rang comme officier général ni à son entendement. Il aura pu voir sur mon passeport que comme militaire je suis son égal, et que comme particulier mon rang me mettra bien au-dessus de lui.

A sa violence et sa hauteur je n'ai opposé que le mépris et la compassion qu'a excité en moi une personne qui à un tel point poussoit l'oubli des convenances et de ce qu'il devoit à sa situation. Comme j'ignore de quelle manière tout ceci vous sera représenté, je dois vous observer, Monsieur le Baron, que je ne lui ai pas fait de réplique ; et comme il serait très-possible qu'il cherchât à justifier cette conduite par sa crainte de voir les officiers Anglois communiquent avec les prisonniers Espagnols, je puis vous assurer que je n'ai ni parlé ni eu aucune communication quelconque avec les Messieurs qui sont à Nancy.

J'étois autant plus surpris de cette conduite de Monsieur le Général Lacoste que j'étois plus loin de m'y attendre d'après l'opinion que je m'en étois formé, et que je suis bien assuré qu'elle n'est aucunement

d'accord,

d'accord, ni avec les les intentions, ni avec les ordres de Sa Majesté l'Empereur.

J'ai l'honneur d'être, &c. &c.

(Signé) BLAYNEY, Major-Général.

Verdun, le 26 Mai, 1812.

Copy of a Letter from Major-General Lord Blayney to Messrs. Mallett, at Paris.

Verdun, July 23, 1812.

GENTLEMEN,

Mr. Hall has this day shown me your letter of the 18th instant, relative to the discounting such bills as may be necessary to draw on the British government, for the several sums which may be necessary to remit to the various dépôts; these bills are always drawn in my favour and indorsed by me, although I have hitherto transacted my private business with Messrs. Peregaux and Co., and entertain the highest opinion of their house, at the same time feel grateful for the attentions they have at all times paid to my private concerns since being in France. My duty in a public capacity is to procure cash for supplies on the most moderate terms possible, so that the British government may see that correct justice is in all respects paid to obtaining it on good terms; therefore in my humble

humble opinion) was this money to be negotiated with Messrs. Peregaux and Co. from their having almost entirely the English money concerns to transact, it would lead to a monopoly that the British Government may not think judicious on my part to admit.

I therefore beg leave to inform you as nearly as possible of the sum which may be annually wanted, amounting to about £40,000 sterling (including clothing for the soldiers), which sum you will remit to the different dépôts in such manner as Mr. Hall shall advise you; and I am in hopes you will adopt measures with your correspondent at these dépôts, so that the least possible expense in discount on these remittances may be incurred. The letters of advice shall be placed on the back of the bills in such manner as hitherto has been customary, and is perfectly understood with the agents on whom these bills are drawn.

I have the honour to remain, &c.

(Signed) BLAYNEY, Major-General.

P. S. You will be pleased to observe that this letter relates to the public concern ONLY, as I could not with any propriety withdraw my private concerns from Messrs. Peregaux and Co.

Copy

Copy of a Letter from Major-General Lord Blayney to Mr. Olivier, Commandant of the Dépôt at Sarre-Louis.

Verdun, le 20 Août 1811.

MONSIEUR LE COMMANDANT,

Je viens de recevoir de Monsieur Penrice la copie de plusieurs extraits de mes lettres publiées au dépôt sous vos ordres et avec votre approbation.

Permettez-moi, Monsieur le Commandant, de vous témoigner ma reconnaissance de tous les soins que vous vous donnez pour rendre le sort des prisonniers de guerre aussi doux que le permettent les circonstances et l'ordre des choses; j'ai vu avec un sensible plaisir que vous jugez que les lettres j'ai adressées aux prisonniers de guerre à votre dépôt ont pû ou peuvent contribuer au bon ordre et à la tranquillité que vous désirez y maintenir.

Je serois charmé, Monsieur, s'il pût se présenter une occasion de vous être utile et agréable, du moins me plairai-je toujours de vous rendre en tout lieu et en toute circonstance la justice dû à un brave militaire qui comme vous, Monsieur, sait servir son souverain et sa patrie avec honneur, sans oublier ce qu'il doit à l'humanité. C'est très-sincèrement que je vous prie d'agréer les assurances de la parfaite estime avec laquelle j'ai l'honneur d'être,

(Signé) BLAYNEY, Major-Général.

Copy of a Letter from Monsieur Olivier, commanding the Dépôt of British Prisoners at Sarre-Louis, to Major-General Lord Blayney.

Sarre-Louis, le 22 Août, 1812.

MI LORD,

J'ai reçu la lettre flatteuse que vous avez bien voulu m'écrire, en date du 20 de ce mois. Je vous prie de croire, qu'en rendant le sort des prisonniers Anglois aussi doux que le permettent les circonstances, je n'ai suivi que les intentions de mon Souverain et l'impulsion de mon cœur.

Je dois vous faire connaître, Monsieur le Général, que Monsieur le Lieutenant Penrice m'a beaucoup aider ; aussi avons-nous la satisfaction de voir chaque jour une amélioration sensible dans le dépôt sous ma surveillance.

Je suis flatté, Monsieur le Général, que tout ce que je fais pour le bien de vos compatriotes puisse vous être agréable, et votre assentiment est pour moi au delà de tout.

N'ayant jamais eu d'ambition que celle de m'attirer l'estime de tous les honnêtes gens, la vôtre, Monsieur le Général, me flatte beaucoup.

Recevez, je vous prie, l'assurance du profond respect avec laquelle j'ai l'honneur d'être,

(Signé) OLIVIER.

MINISTÈRE DE LA GUERRE—5ÈME DIVISION—BUREAU DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE.

Copy of a Letter from the Duc de Feltre, Minister of War, to the Baron de Beauchesne, Commandant of the Dépôt of English Prisoners of War at Verdun.

MONSIEUR,

J'ai lieu de croire que Lord Blayney entretien une correspondence administrative dans les dépôts des prisonniers de guerre de sa nation; qu'il réclame des états de situation et de fourniture, &c.; enfin qu'il exerce sans mission les fonctions d'un commissaire Britannique. La formation des conseils d'administration dans les dépôts, et l'admission de deux prisonniers de guerre dans chacun de ces conseils ont suffisamment prouvé que le gouvernement Français n'eut l'entière exécution des règlemens; elle sait respecter les droits du malheur, mais l'Empereur en refusant d'admettre un commissaire Anglois autorisé, veut à plus fort raison qu'aucun prisonnier ne s'arroge ses fonctions; vous ferez notifier sur-le-champ à Lord Blayney la défense de continuer des relations aussi contraires aux ordres de Sa Majesté, et vous veillerez à ce qu'il s'y conforme.

Recevez, Monsieur, &c.

(Signé) LE MINISTRE DE LA GUERRE,
DUC DE FELTRE.

Pour copie conforme.

Le Colonel, Baron de BEAUCHESNE, commandant du dépôt des prisonniers de guerre Anglois dans le département de la Meuse.

(Signé) SOYER.

P. S. Je ne m'oppose pas à ce que les secours venus de la Grande Bretagne et de l'Irlande pour divers prisonniers leur soyent envoyés par Lord Blayney, pourvu que les fonds soyent faits par les familles ou proviennent des souscriptions particulières; mais la distribution ne peut en être faite secrètement et sans le concours de l'autorité Française.

Copy of Letter from Major General Lord Blayney to the Duc de Feltre, Minister of War.

MY LORD DUKE,

I have this day received the copy of a letter your Excellency wrote to Monsieur le Baron de Beauchesne, which he did me the favour to enclose. Your Excellency may not be aware of the situation in which the British sailors as well as soldiers (while prisoners) are circumstanced. Their pay is placed in due course to their credit, equally the same as if they were with

their corps, and have a just right to claim and receive it from the British Government; therefore, instead of receiving their money on their return to England, they requested I would act as their agent, and draw for them a moiety of the sum due, to purchase tobacco, or such comforts (in addition to the French allowance) which might alleviate their situation; it is only drawing for them their own property; and so far from my acting as a commissary on the part of the British Government, if your Excellency will only peruse the correspondence between me and them on the subject, you will find in this instance that they opposed it, on the principle of the advantage France would derive from the loss of exchange, and the disadvantage to England; and, finally, I represented that, unless they acquiesced, these prisoners would send each separately an order to their friends to receive the money due to them, and that they would individually draw it through that channel, which, when explained, the British Government admitted a portion of their pay being drawn, as your Excellency may perceive by the copy of the Secretary at War's letter to me, and that he corresponded with me on that subject merely as senior officer on full pay, and not as commissary. I am therefore induced to conclude that the benevolent disposition of

his

his Majesty the Emperor and your Excellency would not prevent the unfortunate men whom the chance of war has placed in your hands, from receiving the miserable sum of six sous per day, with perhaps an additional shirt and a pair of shoes; and your Excellency may perceive, on a reference to Messrs. Peregaux and Mallett, bankers, that these bills are drawn on the agents of the regiments, and not on the War Office or Government of Great Britain.

I must refer your Excellency to my correspondence with the commandant at Briançon, and other dépôts, to shew that my communication has not been in secret, but open, and I should have addressed your Excellency on this subject, had I conceived it worthy of your Excellency's consideration. I am therefore in hopes my conduct corresponds with the postscript in your Excellency's letter.

I have the honour to remain,

&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) BLAYNEY, Major-General.

P. S. I am in hopes this explanation will be satisfactory to your Excellency.

Copy of a letter from Captain Dabel and Lieutenant Mosqua, of the Duke of Brunswick's Corps.

Mayence, January 1, 1812.

My Lord,

We do not omit offering you our best wishes at the beginning of the year; we have also the honour of acquainting your Lordship, that the letter dated the 27th ult. has enabled us to settle in future our money affairs. Mr. Peregaux in Paris has remitted to us the amount of a bill on our agents in London, sent to him some time ago. The bill for £50, from Monsieur Antoine, has also been paid to us at the rate of exchange mentioned in the letter of the 27th ult. We have always laid under the conviction that the Government whom we have the honour to serve, would not abandon us, and that it was owing to our very limited acquaintance with affairs of that sort, that our helpless situation till now must be ascribed. There is one passage in the above-mentioned letter which strengthens our minds to encounter future undeserved sufferings: the flattering idea that our Protector will employ his interest in our behalf, has infused the hope of a better futurity in our hearts. In vain do we endeavour by writing to express the sentiments of gratitude with which

which we are animated towards him, who so generously rescued us from misery, and who has restored us again to the society of them of which we had been so long deprived. We remain, with the most profound respect, &c.

(Signed) { DABEL, *Captain.*
MOSQUA, *Lieut.*

To Major-General Lord Blayney.

Copy of a Letter from the Duke of Brunswick Oels to Major-General Lord Blayney.

Brunswick, March 18, 1814.

MY LORD,

I have the pleasure to inform your Lordship, that Captain Dabel and Lieutenant Mosqua of my light infantry regiment have joined me, and I lose no time to express to you my sincerest and warmest thanks for the kind and favourable protection which you have granted to those gentlemen. I hope they will soon have an opportunity of retaliating the bad treatment which they have experienced from the enemy, and that it may be known to all Germany in what manner these brave men were treated. I shall write to day to Messrs. Greenwood,

Greenwood, the agents of my corps, and request them to settle with your Lordship the different sums which were forwarded from you to these officers. In requesting your Lordship to accept of my warmest gratitude,

I have the honour to be,

Your Lordship's obedient servant,

(*Signed*) WILLIAM, DUKE OF BRUNSWICK.

Major-General Lord Blayney.

THE END.

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